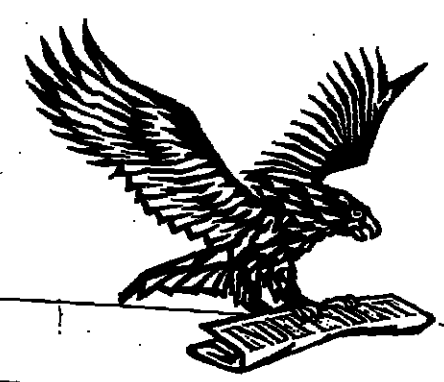


هكذا من الأصل

ance
BALL



John Walsh: Me, target of satire

Commentators, page 17



So what is God for?

Bryan Appleyard, Section Two

THE INDEPENDENT

3,089

THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 1996

WEATHER: Mainly dry

40p OR 45p

Photography and the new censorship

By Suzanne Moore

The photographer Robert Mapplethorpe set out to shock. But little could he have known that a photograph taken twenty years ago of a three year old girl would, in today's climate, be seen as more controversial than explicit photographs of sado-masochistic sex.

The picture, entitled *Rosie*, is of a little girl wearing a dress but no underwear sitting on a pew. The decision of the Hayward Gallery not to show it was taken after advice from the police who explained that the climate surrounding images of children's has changed since 1976.

The forthcoming exhibition

Does it mean that none of us can see an image because a tiny minority may find it arousing?

has already toured places as diverse as Israel and New Zealand, so we might ask if this anxiety is peculiarly British. Predictably, the photograph has already been condemned as "utterly horrific" and as "child pornography" by Esther Rantzen, though when exactly Ms. Rantzen saw this particular image is difficult to ascertain. One can't help wondering if this photo had been taken by anyone other than Mapplethorpe whether it would have been withdrawn. Unusually for a Mapplethorpe work the obscenity here is largely in the eye of the beholder.

While much of Mapplethorpe's oeuvre is notorious for the debates it has fuelled about artistic freedom and censorship, charges of obscenity have tended to focus on more obviously disturbing works such as those of a mutilated male genitalia. Indeed the Hayward will exhibit many of "the X port folio" sex photographs which prompted Senator Jesse Helms to exclaim "Lord have mercy Jesse, I'm not believing this..." as



Body of work: An example of the pieces that the controversial photographer, Robert Mapplethorpe, will be exhibiting at the Hayward Gallery in London from next Thursday

Copyright: The Estate of Robert Mapplethorpe

well as a full-scale obscenity trial. The trial resulted in understandable paranoia in every American museum and funding body. Are we becoming similarly paranoid? Would the police have been invited to view this exhibition if it were being staged at a privately owned gallery like Saatchi's?

While there is undoubtedly

a huge gulf between the language of art criticism and common-sense notions of decency, the current sensitivity about images of children produces the bizarre situation in which there is no such thing as an innocent image of a child, where a graphic portrayal of "fisting" is seen as less problematic.

We may be more aware of

paedophilia than we were in 1976. But does that mean that none of us can see an image because a tiny minority may find it arousing? Such a fundamentalist argument would eventually eliminate the human body and its dangerous desires from art altogether, something that Mapplethorpe fought against all his life.

Is scouring images of three year olds for evidence of sexuality, theirs or ours, a good way to maintain public innocence? I doubt it somehow but then Mapplethorpe's friends always did describe him as "a fallen angel".

"Mapplethorpe" is at the Hayward Gallery in London from 19 September until 17 November

EU orders: Don't work long hours

EXCLUSIVE

SARAH HELM
Brussels

New European rules which would force the Government to accept a maximum 48-hour week for workers who traditionally work longer hours are contained in politically explosive proposals prepared by the European Commission.

The rules, which extend an existing European directive, would cause widespread upheaval in the National Health Service, provoking a revolution in the training of doctors. They would also have far-reaching repercussions for the transport and fishing industries.

The Commission plans, contained in a confidential White Paper, could be tabled as early as next month, causing new ferment in the Tory party. The proposals are likely to force John Major into further head-on clashes with his European partners, at a special European mini-summit to be held in October, ahead of the Conservative Party conference.

Britain has already launched a legal challenge to the European Union's existing 48 hour working week directive, arguing the rules breach the spirit of Britain's social chapter opt-out. The judges are expected to rule on the case next month.

When the original directive was drawn up a number of politically sensitive workers were exempted from the first tranche of the legislation. If, as widely expected, the Luxembourg court rejects Britain's attempt to quash the first directive, the Commission intends to table its

new White Paper extending the 48 hour maximum week to the exempted workers. "You could say we will be going for a double-whammy," said one Commission official yesterday. Senior Government officials say there is acute nervousness about the pending European Court judgment. The original working hours directive, agreed in 1993, set out rules to ensure the health and safety of workers including a maximum 48

Treaty of Rome, which requires that member states observe basic health and safety standards, and make improvements "in the working environment". Article 118a was incorporated into the Treaty as part of the Single European Act of 1986, which was strongly supported by the British Government.

For John Major, however, the EU's proposals on working hours have always been deemed a hindrance to competitive working practices. The Government abstained in 1993 when the first rules were passed, pledging a court battle. Before the European judges the Government has argued that working hours are not a matter of health and safety, and accused the Commission of wrongly applying Article 118a. However, even senior Government officials recognise the European Court is likely to find that the number of hours spent at work is a health and safety issue.

Britain has also argued that the working hours rules breached the spirit of the social chapter opt-out, which Britain won at Maastricht. However, the working hours directive is not a part of the social chapter.

Should the court reject Britain's claim, Mr Major has pledged a major battle to rewrite Article 118a in the current inter-governmental conference on EU reform.



hours a week, minimum rest periods and a four week minimum annual paid holiday.

During the negotiations, Britain and some other member states secured exemptions for workers in air, rail, road and sea transport. Fishermen, and those engaged in other work at sea were also exempted, as were "doctors in training".

However, the Commission always pledged it would extend the rules to the exempted areas. It argues that it has a duty to propose legislation on working hours under Article 118a of the

QUICKLY

Ecstasy v Prozac
There is "no logical reason" why the anti-depressant Prozac is legal yet the rave drug ecstasy is illegal, said Steven Rose, one of Britain's most eminent brain scientists, yesterday. Page 5

Beef battle failure
The Government's campaign to block European Union business in order to lift the ban on British beef exports was a failure, the Prime Minister has effectively admitted. Page 2

Sir knows best
Heads know best and governors should overturn their decisions over exclusions only in exceptional circumstances, head-teachers' leaders said. Page 2

Rosy future
The Prime Minister, John Major, has privately told party workers that the prize awaiting the winner of the next general election will be the best economic prospects since the First World War. Page 8

CONTENTS

Section 1	
BUSINESS & CITY	19-21
COMMENT	15-17
FOREIGN NEWS	10-14
GAZETTE	18
HOME NEWS	2-9
LEADING ARTICLES	15
LETTERS	15
SHARES	22
UNIT TRUSTS	23
Section 2	
ARTS	10
DILEMMAS	5
EDUCATION	11-16
FLU	6-9
GRADUATE PLUS	20
LISTINGS	28,29
LIVING	4,5
MISCELLANY	30
TV & RADIO	31,32
WEATHER	29

Padania: new European country, or just an excuse for a party?

By Andrew Gumbel

You are all invited to join in three days of fun and celebration this weekend. The northern third of Italy - or rather, the Republic of Padania - is about to declare its independence.

There will be speeches and political rallies featuring the separatists' very own Boy Scouts in their green shirts, not to mention a solemn "baptism" in which a sacred phial will be filled with river water and carried to Padania's self-proclaimed capital, Venice.

You can obtain a Padanian identity card or some "Bank of the North" bank-notes. There will even be a ritual burning of Italian television licences.

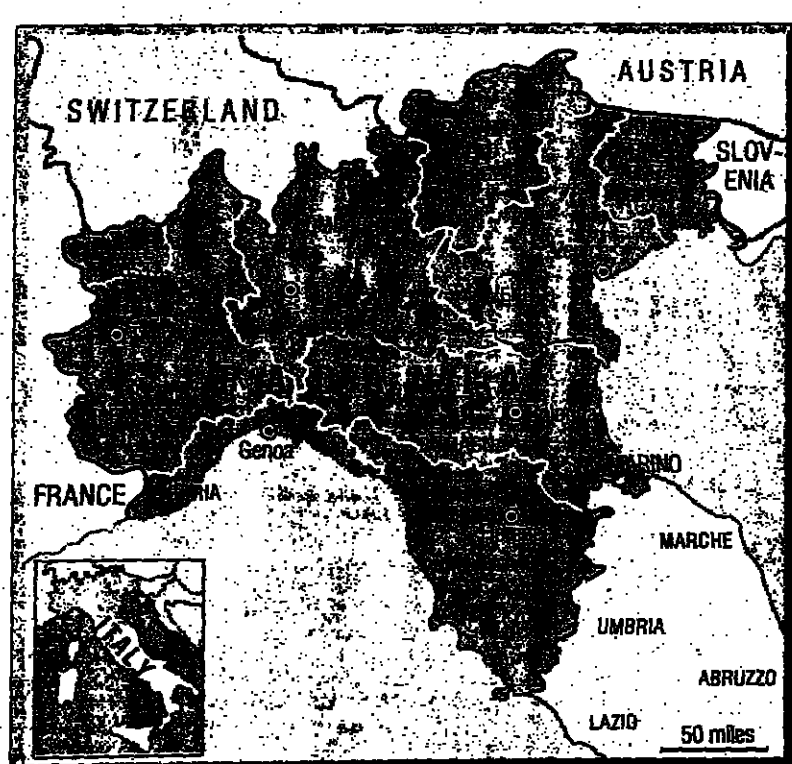
But above all there will be music and dancing, and, to cap it all, a giant beach party in Chioggia with lashings of spaghetti alle vongole.

It will be a strange birth of a nation. For a start, Padania is not a nation at all. It does not even have borders, let alone a separate political structure. The Padanians are not an ethnic group, and there is certainly no groundswell among the northern Italians in favour of secession.

The whole issue has been invented and inflated by the most relentlessly nonconformist of Italy's political parties, the Northern League, and scorned by pretty much everyone else. What is going on? Is this an independence movement, or have the Marx Brothers come to town?

The truth is, two distinct Padanias are being born this weekend. The first is pure folklore, a fictional creation that owes more to Mr Bossi's outlandish sense of humour than to political reality.

This is the Padania whose main exports are suits of medieval chainmail, souvenir cigarette butts discarded by the gravel-throated party leader himself, cheap jokes at the expense of southerners, and all those bogus banknotes.



Two Padanias are being born - the first is pure folklore, the second is the Italy that works and makes money

Nobody is ever going to vote for this Padania, but the point is that it provokes reactions.

To northerners living in some fog-shrouded industrial suburb in the Po valley, it restores a sense of fun to a life of tedious, affluent provincialism. To southerners and the high authorities of state in Rome, this Padania may seem destabilising and irresponsible, but

still they cannot stop talking about it. It is a media smash-hit.

The second Padania is far more serious, and the one that could have an effect on all our lives. It is the Italy that works, that makes money, that commands international respect, the Italy that is fed up to the back teeth with the inefficiencies of a central government that demands ever higher taxes while

delivering less and less in return. This Padania acts European, feels European, and doesn't see why it shouldn't be part of Maastricht and the single currency from the word go.

In a Europe of regions rather than nations, this Padania would be right up there at the top of the pile. If the single European currency is a success, it would be sorely tempted to introduce it even if the rest of Italy has to soldier on with the lira.

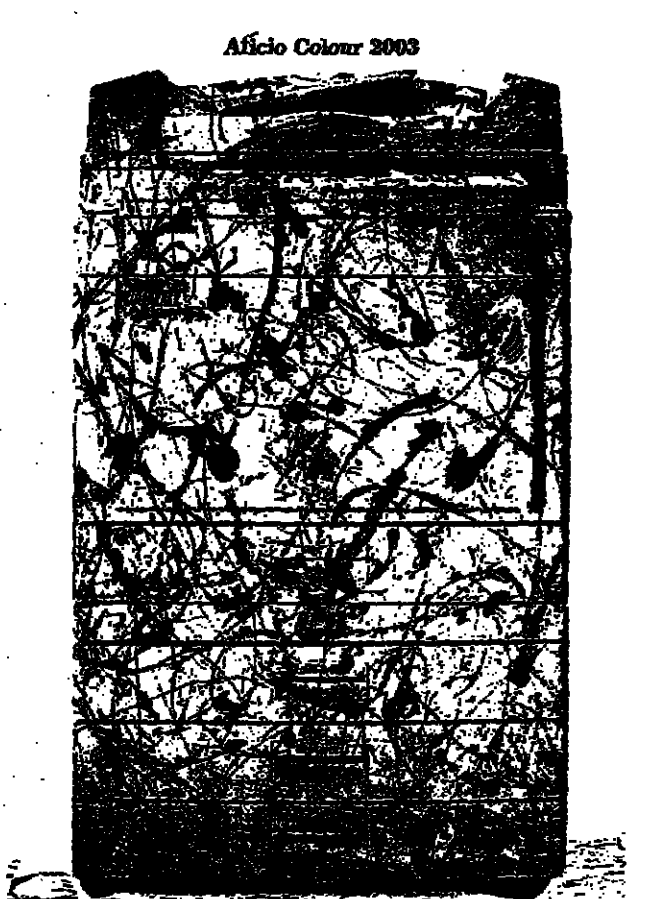
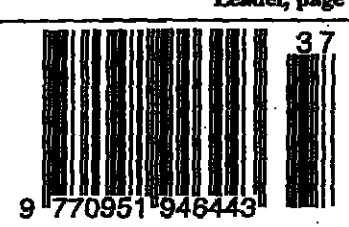
Such sentiments sound like treason to the rest of the country. Italy's post-war order was founded on principles of unity and pluralism, principles that, in the late-1940s, banished the twin spectres of Fascism and civil war and are generally considered the cornerstone of the country's democratic health.

The uncomfortable truth for Italy is that the new Europe will force a rethink of such received ideas sooner or later. If northern businesses and banks are happy to work with the Euro as a parallel currency, how is the government going to stop them?

Obviously, it makes no sense for Padania to break away if the rest of Italy goes down the plughole, and the latent anti-southern hostility in the League's rhetoric needs to be watched.

But Mr Bossi's message - while it is not always palatable - cannot be ignored. As an appeal for greater regionalism, it applies to Catalonia and Scotland just as much as it does to northern Italy. This weekend's jamboree on the Po is just the beginning.

Leaders, page 15



The £9,995 Aficio Colour Copier. It's the Jackson Pollocks. Only cheaper.

Don't splash out if you want to make a big impression with colour. Ricoh's Aficio 2000 Series are the first laser colour copiers to start below £10,000. For more information (no Pollocks) FREEPHONE 0800 303050.

RICOH
DIGITAL
COLOUR

Your most reliable office worker.

*TSP, excluding VAT.

Beef war a fiasco, PM admits

JOHN RENTOUL
Political Correspondent

The Government's campaign this summer to block European Union business in order to lift the ban on British beef exports was a failure, the Prime Minister admitted yesterday, by confirming that the BSE cull of cattle was being reviewed.

The cull was the basis of the deal struck at the Florence summit in June. In that deal, other EU countries agreed to a stage-by-stage lifting of the ban, and John Major agreed to end his policy of non-cooperation with EU institutions. But over the summer, Conservative MPs made it clear they would not

support the Government in the Commons vote next month to authorise the extra cull of 125,000 younger cattle.

Mr Major was provided with a figleaf for his retreat by an Oxford University study published last month.

This suggested that many more BSE-infected cows had been sold for food than previously estimated. But it also predicted that BSE, or "mad-cow disease", would dwindle almost to extinction by 2001.

Mr Major also cited new evidence that BSE could be passed from mother to calf as a reason for re-examining the cull - although previously Angela Browning, the junior agri-

culture minister, had implied that this might mean that more cows, rather than fewer, would have to be slaughtered.

"So those are two new material facts," said Mr Major, on tour in the West Country. "We have to consider them. There is no pre-ordained outcome. What we are doing is considering it and we will no doubt wish to consult with the European Union and then we will make a final decision."

But a European Commission spokesman said yesterday: "We always knew that BSE was going to disappear in five or six years. The reasoning behind a selective slaughter plan is to reduce the incidence of the dis-

ease and therefore give the consumer better protection."

A spokesman for Franz Fischler, the Agriculture Commissioner, warned Britain to honour its commitment to the selective slaughter of high-risk cattle. "The selective-slaughter plan was an integral part of the Florence agreement."

"The step-by-step approach to the lifting of the ban was dependent on the selective-slaughter plan," he said.

The main opposition parties quickly seized on the Prime Minister's embarrassment. Gavin Strang, Labour's agriculture spokesman, described the Florence deal as "lousy". He said: "The Government had

pledged the slaughter of around 120,000 cattle. In return, they did not even bring back a timetable for the lifting of the beef-export ban, and nor did they bring our farmers any guarantees that any future agreement would be reached on any of the steps towards the lifting of the ban."

Paul Tyler, for the Liberal Democrats, welcomed moves to reduce the cull. "Ministers are realising that there is no point in a mass-slaughter scheme if it neither speeds up the eradication of BSE, nor opens the export doors again."

And Mr Major also came under fire from the internal opposition Redwood Party. John

Redwood, the former Tory leadership challenger, said he hoped the Government would be able to negotiate a better deal - killing fewer cows, while lifting the export ban.

"There is no point in killing cows that we think should not be killed unless that action gets the beef ban lifted," he said on BBC Radio 4's *World at One* programme. "If there is no prospect of the ban being lifted, the best we can do is to look after our own farmers and domestic market and there is every reason for not killing all these cows unnecessarily. We should kill that number which our own scientific advice and judgment says is correct."

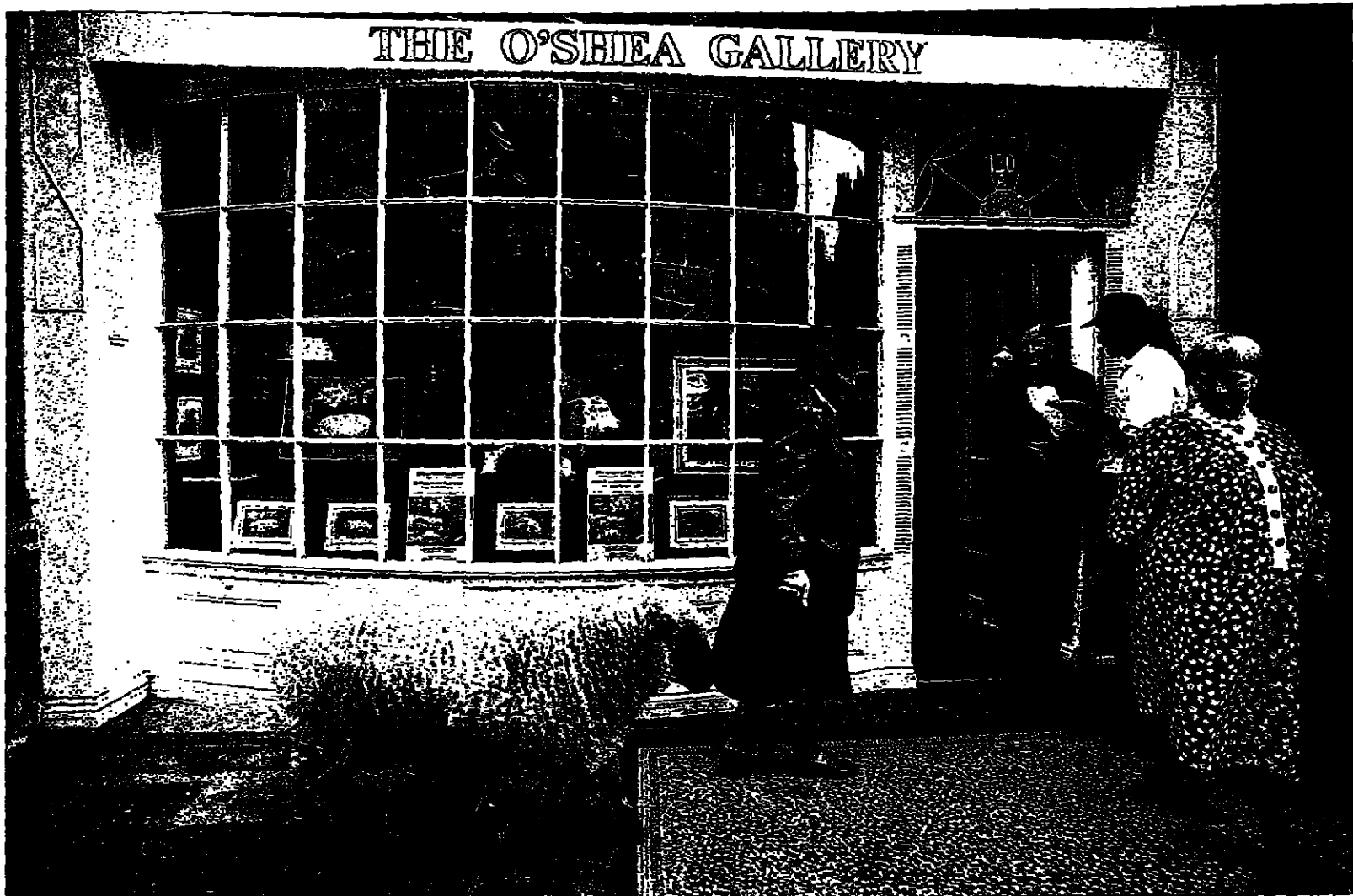
Girl may have waved to killer

Nine-year-old Josephine Russell, who survived a hammer attack which left her mother and sister dead, may have waved to their killer minutes before he launched his frenzied assault, detectives say.

Police interviewing the girl about the murders in Chislehurst, Kent, yesterday said she saw the man attack her mother, Lin, after he confronted them on a footpath. She has told police that a computerised image of a man seen near the scene looks "very similar" to the man who attacked her. A police spokesman said had a very strong reaction to the picture, and was obviously frightened.

Josephine, her mother and her six-year-old sister Megan were bludgeoned as they walked from Goodnestone school to their home in Chislehurst on 9 July. Police are hoping that in interviews today she will be able to tell them when her sister and the family pet dog were also attacked.

Police have maintained a 24-hour guard on the Russell home since Josephine came out of hospital last month.



Rare breeds: A Staffordshire ram takes to the streets in Mayfair, central London, to promote the publication of *British Farm Animal Portraiture*, a new book by Elspeth Moncrieff, and an accompanying exhibition at the O'Shea Gallery. Photograph: Herbie Knott

Headteachers tell school governors: We know best

JUDITH JUDO
Education Editor

Heads know best and governors should overturn their decisions over exclusions only in exceptional circumstances, head teachers' leaders said yesterday. Governors reacted angrily to the heads' announcement made in response to a dispute at Manton Junior School in Nottinghamshire where governors have twice overturned the head's decision to exclude 10-year-old Matthew Wilson for allegedly disruptive behaviour.

Yesterday parents who had withdrawn their children from the school agreed to send them back as "a goodwill gesture" to persuade Gillian Shepherd, the Secretary of State for Education, to talk to them. They have been protesting at the one-to-one tuition provided for Matthew at a cost of £14,000 after teachers threatened to strike if they had to teach him.

Leaders of the National Association of Head Teachers said

the Government should tighten the rules on exclusions to stop governors overruling heads unless they have failed to follow the correct procedures. They should not think their judgement was better than the heads'.

David Hart, the association's general secretary, warned governors not to become emotional about cases. He said: "This is a ludicrous situation in which the governing body has managed to act in such a way that it has turned not only the teachers but the majority of the parents against it."

"Anyone looking at the situation could have seen as plain as a pikestaff that spending £14,000 from the school budget would not be acceptable to parents because it is going to mean the loss of books and equipment or even of a teacher's job."

Walter Ulrich of the National Association of Governors and Managers said that the heads' proposals about governors' role in exclusions were

"not what the law says and plainly not sensible. It is entirely the responsibility of the head to decide whether children should be permanently excluded. There then has to be a proper review by someone who is not as close to the affair."

Heads also want appeal panels to be scrapped unless governors and the local authority disagree about an exclusion.

In two recent decisions in Nottinghamshire and Huddersfield, south Tyneside, independent appeal panels overruled governors' decisions to expel pupils.

Heads want a package of measures included in the Government's bill on discipline which will be introduced into the Commons this autumn.

■ Power to detain pupils after school whether their parents agree or not.

■ Changes to allow pupils to be excluded for a longer period.

■ Legislation to allow schools to make home-school contracts a condition of entry.

■ Removal of parental choice

of schools for those whose children have been excluded from two or more schools.

Mr Hart said: "The pendulum has swung too far in the direction of individual parental and pupil rights. It is time that the interests of the law-abiding majority of parents, pupils and their teachers were given equal recognition."

Commenting on the Nottinghamshire case, Mrs Shepherd told BBC Radio 4's *World at One* that she had the power to intervene over an exclusion only if the governors had behaved unlawfully "which they haven't in this instance." Responsibility rested with the local authority.

But the National Union of Teachers, whose members include Manton Junior's head, asked her to re-examine her powers. The Department for Education said no final decision had been taken on the legislation but it could require appeals panels to consider the interests of all children, not just one.

Lottery tickets give game away

JAMES CUSICK

Crime does not pay, especially if villains have their alibis ruined by keeping their lottery tickets in their trousers.

In one of the lesser known spin-offs of Britain's lottery mania, the coded information a lottery ticket holds can help police pinpoint where and when the ticket was bought. The information, where it contradicts a claimed alibi, has been used in criminal courts and successful convictions have followed.

Although the lottery is now an accepted British institution with 30 million computer terminals, as opposed to instant tickets, sold every week, it would appear Britain's criminal fraternity have been slow to see they could be carrying around instant whistleblowers. Mike Pottinger of the lottery's operators, Camelot, said that his investigators helped police with information from tickets found on suspects.

Mr Pottinger described the assistance given to police fol-

lowing a burglary. "Two suspects were found to have lottery tickets on them. From the tickets we knew when and where they were purchased. The police asked the owners of the house if they had bought tickets recently, and when and where. The police also asked the suspects, who claimed the tickets were theirs. The suspects were 100 miles out in where the tickets were bought. It helped secure their conviction."

Even Camelot's "Instant" game has built-in information that has assisted police in investigations. When a seller takes delivery of a pack of Instant cards, they have to be "activated". Mr Pottinger said that inactivated cards had been stolen, and that when the thieves tried to cash in the winners, terminals were able to trace where they being processed. "We found a pattern being made by the thieves, predicted their next stop, and waited. When they arrived the police arrested them."

Power customers asked to tell tales

MICHAEL HARRISON and ADRIAN HOLLIDAY

Britain's biggest regional electricity company is asking its customers to give information on neighbours who have not paid their bills.

Eastern Electricity, which has 3 million customers, is sending out letters to householders living next to customers who have moved away, asking for help in providing any information they may have as to their current whereabouts.

The letter asks whether they know their former neighbour's new address, telephone number and name of their employer. It also asks for details of the landlord who owns the property or the estate agent who sold it.

Eastern's tactics have provoked anger among consumer groups and raised questions over whether the company is in breach of data protection legislation. Malcolm Roberts, chairman of the Eastern Region Electricity Consumers Com-

mittee, which covers an area from the Suffolk coast to north London, said: "I can't think of another organisation that would indulge in this sort of behaviour. It is appalling."

The Office of the Data Protection Registrar said that Eastern may have breached the 1989 Electricity Act which prohibits electricity suppliers from disclosing customer information without customers' consent, except in some restricted cases.

An Eastern spokesman denied that it was in breach of any laws and said that its methods of tracing customers were in accordance with codes of practice laid down by three credit agencies. Eastern had done it for decades, he said, and sent out several thousand such letters a year. "We regard it as being in the interests of all our customers that debts are paid."

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

The political damage inflicted on the Tory party by its reluctance to ban hand guns was highlighted yesterday by the resignation of Tory MP Sebastian Coe from a gun group accused of snearing a father who lost a child in the Dunblane school massacre. A newsletter published by the National Pistol Association made a series of accusations against John Crozier, whose daughter, Emma, five, was among 16 children and one teacher murdered in the attack last March.

Mr Coe's resignation as NPA honorary president follows the decision earlier this summer by the six Tory members of the Home Affairs select committee to oppose a ban on handguns being kept at home. The former Olympic champion who is now MP for Falmouth and Camborne and a junior government whip, said in a statement that the NPA had "expressed views about the Dunblane tragedy which have caused much anger and upset. I have now studied these comments and the sentiments expressed, with which I disagree." John Rentoul

A £120,000 study to see how hard consultant surgeons have been commissioned by the Department of Health after evidence that some operate only once or twice a week for the National Health Service, while spending three or four half-days weekly in the private sector.

The project, which will be in two NHS regions and will also look at physicians' workloads, will be undertaken by John Yates, of the Health Services Management Centre at Birmingham University, who has produced specialist studies on doctors' work practices and waiting lists. Mr Yates's research shows 10-fold variations in how many NHS operations surgeons carry, he told the NHS Trust Federation conference in Birmingham yesterday. Nicholas Timmins

Both the Tory and Labour parties will break up after the next election, Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, predicts in an interview published tomorrow. Forecasting a "realignment" of British politics despite an outright majority for Tony Blair, Mr Ashdown sees his party as poised to benefit.

Both main parties contain "people who are diametrically opposed to each other and I see the next election as the point at which there is a real opportunity for new formations in politics," Mr Ashdown tells the *New Statesman* magazine, suggesting that Europe could be the trigger issue. Speaking before his party's conference in Brighton in 10 days' time, he says: "If we can articulate clearly enough what we stand for, if we have courage, the party has a good chance of making real progress, of being the catalyst that brings about realignment." John Rentoul

Cases of multi-drug resistant TB (MDR TB) could rise dramatically in the developed world because of poor treatment of the disease in the Third World, an expert warned yesterday. Professor Sir John Crofton, a consultant to the World Health Organisation, warned that many Indian doctors were failing to prescribe tuberculosis drugs correctly, increasing the chances of drug resistance. With travel to and from the sub-continent growing, more people would be exposed to MDR TB, he told the British Pharmaceutical Conference in Glasgow. About one-third of the world's population is infected with TB, and deaths from the disease reached record heights in 1995. Liz Hunt

Seventeen rebel councillors were expelled from the Labour Party in the politically troubled borough of Hackney, east London, last night. The expulsions, believed to have been sanctioned by the party leadership, came hours before the rebels forced a vote on an alleged cover-up of child sex abuse in the borough. The rebels, who had resigned from Hackney's official Labour group and formed Hackney New Labour Group, have already forged political links with Liberal Democrat and Tory councillors. They said abuse claims involving a care worker who died last year of an AIDS-related illness were "the straw which broke the camel's back".

Britain's powers to block television pornography Received from the Continent are not affected by a ruling from the European Court of Justice, government officials emphasised yesterday. They said fears that Tuesday's judgment would open the flood-gates to X-rated satellite pornography channels were unfounded. A Department of National Heritage spokesman said: "This has no bearing on our existing powers. It does not affect our ability to use the powers that we already have to prevent people receiving these channels." The judgment, he added, was a technical one and would have no practical effect on the way Britain handled the issue. Marianne Macdonald

A seaside resort is to colour code its beach so that almost children and their parents can be reunited more quickly. Children will be issued with coloured bracelets to match the zone where their parents are sitting on the beach at Bournemouth, Dorset, which has a six-mile promenade. On one summer day this year, inspectors dealt with 50 lost children. David Jones, general manager of Bournemouth sea front, said yesterday that children paddling up and down could sometimes lose their bearings, but would be able to home in on the coloured signs.

British Gas, facing record numbers of complaints from customers, yesterday ventured into financial services, another industry plagued with a poor public image, with the launch of a new credit card. The Goldfish card, jointly launched with American-owned HFC Bank, gives a £1 discount on gas bills for every £100 spent with the card, up to £75. But the card's launch was condemned by Robin Simpson, acting director at the National Consumer Council: "It looks like a gimmick to help British Gas hang on to its wealthier customers as the industry becomes more competitive," he said. Nic Cunniff

Spectacular coastal sand dunes in north Devon were yesterday de-listed as a National Nature Reserve by English Nature because of a disagreement with the owners. English Nature said cattle grazing was the most effective way of managing the 1,200 acres of Braunton Burrows, on the Taw-Torridge estuary in north Devon. But the Christie estate, which has managed the area for hundreds of years, maintained that the introduction of cattle grazing could be "potentially devastating". The de-listing of the Burrows - with dunes up to 30m high, 400 flowering plant species and 50,000 visitors a year - was an unusual step, English Nature admitted. It remains a site of special scientific interest.

Rock star David Bowie released his latest single exclusively on the Internet yesterday. "Telling Lies" will not be sold in shops or heard on the radio, so fans will have to download for three versions of the song in compact-disc quality from his official Internet site. This is believed to be the first time a major artist has released a full song on the worldwide computer network.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Author	Subs	Price	Overseas Subscriptions
Belgium	£24.00	£15.00	Armed 13 weeks; Europe £15.00; Zone 1 (Middle East, Africa and India) £18.00; Zone 2 (Far East and Australasia) £20.00. To order, please send cheque payable to John Macdonald Media Services Ltd at 43 Market Street, London E14 7BT or telephone 0217 530 8288. Credit cards welcome.
Denmark	£24.00	£15.00	
France	£24.00	£15.00	
Germany	£24.00	£15.00	
Greece	£24.00	£15.00	
Italy	£24.00	£15.00	
Japan	£24.00	£15.00	
Spain	£24.00	£15.00	
Sweden	£24.00	£15.00	
Switzerland	£24.00	£15.00	
USA	£24.00	£15.00	

ANDIE MACDOWELL CUTS WAIST MODELS DOWN TO SIZE.

Andie MacDowell talks exclusively to Radio Times about her modelling years. How it got her into Hollywood and nearly got her laughed out. And how models aren't what they used to be.

RadioTimes
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT.

هكذا من الأناص

The Dior glory is Galliano's

Plumber's son set to take prestigious
job, reports Tamsin Blanchard



Out with the old: An example of the maestro's more outré output: an offering from the spring-summer 1995 ready-to-wear collection Photograph: Chris Moore

John Galliano, the 35-year-old Streatham plumber's son, looks set to take over at one of the most historic, prestigious and wealthy couture houses in Paris, Christian Dior.

Fashion industry insiders believe that Galliano, who spent much of the decade after leaving St Martin's in 1983 on the brink of financial disaster before being appointed to Givenchy, has been working an apprenticeship for the real task ahead as the designer at Dior. An announcement is due between now and October's ready-to-wear shows in Paris.

Both companies are owned by the French luxury goods conglomerate LVMH (Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy), headed by the former property developer, Bernard Arnault.

Last year LVMH turned over 29.8bn francs (£3.8bn), putting it in France's top three companies. Arnault's collection of de luxe names also includes Christian Lacroix, Guerin, Kenzo, Moët et Chandon, Veuve Clicquot and Mercier champagne, Louis Vuitton and Loewe leather goods, as well as Hennessy cognac and Fred jewellery.

It is barely a year since Galliano joined Givenchy, where he has transformed the label from a supplier of prim, proper clothes to one that makes the sexiest. Under his own ready-to-wear label, Galliano dresses actresses Elizabeth Hurley, Sharon Stone and Nicole Kidman.

Since the announcement last July that Italian designer Gianfranco Ferré's contract with Dior was not to be renewed, fashion's rumour mills have been working overtime. It seems that every designer under the sun has been approached by LVMH. But now Paris has reopened after the August holidays and Galliano's name is on the lips of every fashion insider, although contracts are yet to be signed.

worth 400m francs, pin money compared with Dior. What is significant about Dior is its knack of transforming bottles of sweet-smelling water into mega dollars. Last year, Parfums Christian Dior turned over 5.5bn francs. Fashion sales were less than a quarter of those for fragrances. But it is the fashion, and the publicity that surrounds the catwalk shows, that gives the perfumes, the tights, the sunglasses and the make-up a brand image, a sense of history, and a reason to buy them.

Under Gianfranco Ferré, Dior has all but turned its back on its own invaluable archives. The combination of the House of Dior and the mad genius of John Galliano, is a potent one. In appointing Galliano, Arnault, a canny businessman, will have in mind the transformation at Chanel since Karl Lagerfeld took over in 1983. There is no doubt he has been planning as much since buying Christian Dior, his first fashion company, in 1984.

When Lagerfeld took over Chanel, the name and the archives of Coco Chanel were there, ready to be revitalised and brought into the Eighties. Lagerfeld has put the Chanel stamp on everything, from wellington boots to hair slides, selling at £99 each. And the company's latest perfume, Allure, looks set to be on many Christmas lists. According to a 1996 Mintel report, Chanel's share in the female fragrance market for 1995 was worth £35m. Dior's share was not far behind at £26m.

Galliano is no stranger to designer archives. He is an expert in fashion history. At Dior, he would make use of one of the most famous names in the world, with its princess line, the cardigan jacket, the black, navy blue and white colour palette, the ropes of pearls and of course, the grand ball gowns.

As for Givenchy, the house will suffer as yet another new designer is sought.



In with the new: Galliano bidding fair to outDior Dior with a chaste number from his autumn 1996/97 collection Photograph: Sheridan Morley

Claws bared in war over saving the Indian tiger

STEPHEN GOODWIN

Civil war broke out in the conservation camp yesterday when the world's largest environmental charity, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), was slated over its efforts to protect the tiger.

"WWF are fiddling while Rome burns," said Michael Day, founder and chairman of the Tiger Trust. Arraigning the Indian government along with WWF Mr Day told a press conference in London that unless immediate action was taken to stop poaching, the Indian tiger would be wiped out in five years.

WWF, whose international president is the Duke of Edinburgh, was even accused of not wanting to save the tiger because a healthy population of the big cats would make it harder to alarm people into making donations.

Guy Marriott, a former fundraiser for WWF who is now a Tiger Trust employee, said saving the tiger would be "a marketing disaster" for the fund.

WWF reacted swiftly to defend its record, repudiating Mr Marriott's allegation and pointing out that Mr Day had a book to promote - his *Fight the Tiger*.



At bay: The Indian tiger is under threat Photograph: Ardea

came out in paperback six weeks ago.

"This is not a responsible course of action for a committed conservationist to take," a WWF spokeswoman said. "The tiger remains in imminent danger of extinction because of poaching but this kind of thing can only damage the conservation effort."

The latest estimate by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the world conservation body, put India's tiger population at between 2,500 and 3,750. Last year 73 tigers were known to have been killed by poachers but experts believe that the true figure could be five times as many. Mr Day claimed 500 tigers were slaughtered last year. "In spite of the vast amounts raised each year by the WWF exploiting the plight of the species, nothing is

being done to physically protect the tigers from the poachers."

Mr Day, a former advertising executive who founded the Tiger Trust in 1992, said tagging tigers electronically and supplying more armed rangers would do more to stop the trade than trying to improve life for villagers so they would not be tempted to make money out of tigers. The Suffolk-based trust has an annual income of some £230,000, nearly all from donations. In each of the past two years it has put more than £40,000 into financing anti-poaching personnel to protect the Siberian tiger.

Repudiating Mr Day's accusations, set out in a report entitled *The Big Cat Cover Up*, WWF said it was spending £2.2m on tiger-related conservation projects this year, including £241,000 in India.

"There are no easy ways of solving the current poaching problems, just as there are no quick-fix solutions to stopping the illegal trade in arms and narcotics," it said. The fund has put particular effort into reducing demand for tiger products and is talking with Chinese pharmacists over alternatives to medicines whose ingredients include tiger-body parts.

This train inquiry is delayed ...

... because there are the wrong sort of people on the telephone line

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR
Transport Correspondent

The telephone inquiry system for rail passengers is in such a mess that about a third of callers never get through. With reorganisation of the system and the privatisation of the rail network, a new national inquiry number is being introduced and is due to go fully into operation on 19 October. The number, 0345 484950, has already "gone live" in many parts of Britain but is already unable to cope with increasing demand from passengers; thousands of callers are cut off after holding on for several minutes. Although it was not advertised in London, up to 100,000

callers there were using the service daily and the number had to be withdrawn for London, with an answering machine advising callers to contact one of four other existing lines.

The *Independent* has received a number of complaints from readers bewildered by the partial introduction of the new system and who have often called several numbers without getting a reply. Other complainants were given wrong information, as operators no longer have any local knowledge. This is because when people dial the new national number and their local bureau is engaged, they are transferred to one of the referral bureaux in Newcastle or Havant, where

operators have to deal with all the rail network's 2,500 stations and 55 million fares, which are not available on one consolidated computer system.

There are 45 bureaux, nine of which are provided by a BR subsidiary, RailDirect, and the rest by individual train operators. While BR has invested £1.4m in the Newcastle system, the 25 train operators will have to agree to invest significant sums to improve the system. According to Jim Collins, managing director of RailDirect, "the train operators are too poor at the moment to pay for the new software and hardware that is needed". All 25 companies will have to be convinced of the need for extra investment be-

fore major improvements can be made.

The national train-inquiry system, which deals with 40 million successful callers per year and an estimated 20 million who do not get through, has been deteriorating for a long time as investment failed to match growing demand. The CRUCC, the rail watchdog, said complaints about the train-inquiry bureaux doubled over the past two years. As well as problems caused by reorganisation and the historic lack of capacity in the system, the rail regulator has added to the problem by requiring train operators to provide "impartial information" which does not favour their own company.

CAR INSURANCE

TURN TO GUARDIAN DIRECT AND YOUR CLAIM WON'T GET ON TOP OF YOU.



When you're hit by a nasty surprise, you need someone who'll turn things around quickly and simply. So, turn to Guardian Direct and not only will you enjoy a superb claims service—but you could save up to £50 on your car insurance too.

Faster Claims Service

- Quick, sympathetic action on claims
- Free courtesy cars available
- National network of Approved Repairers
- Legal protection cover available

Low Cost Premiums

- Competitive quotes
- Easy payment option
- Special RAC rates for Guardian Direct policy holders

So, for low cost car insurance with excellent service, you know who to turn to.

0800 282820

Guardian Direct

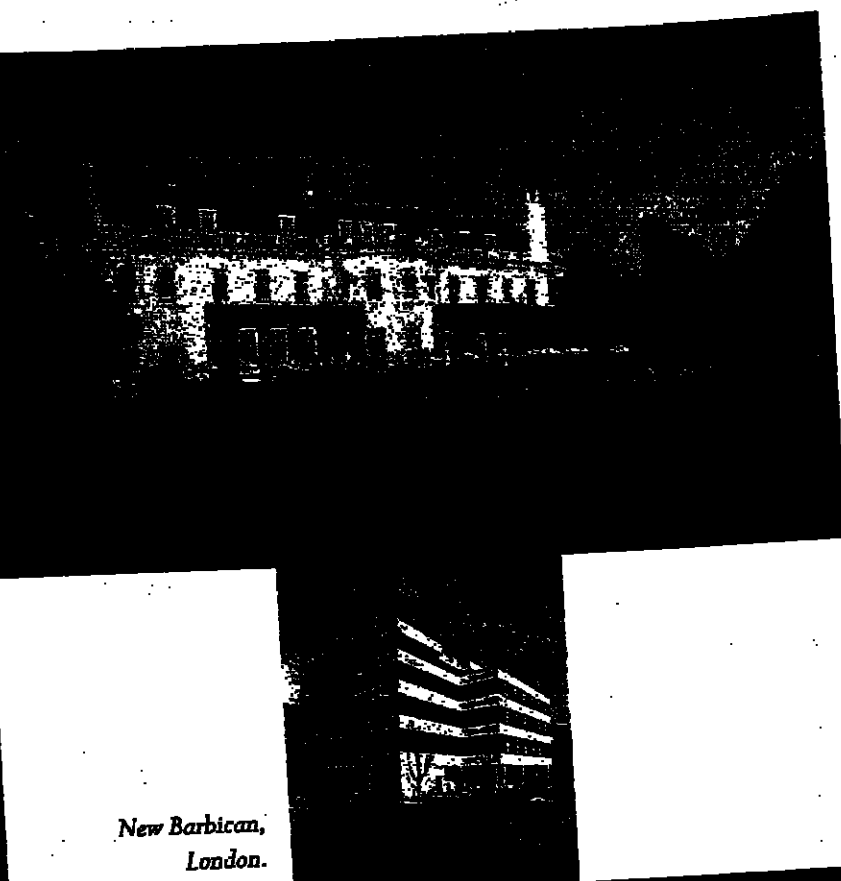
Better insurance for the worldly wise.

A member of the Guardian Royal Exchange Group. Guardian Direct is not available in Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and Isle of Man. Guardian Direct may record telephone calls between advisers and customers to ensure a consistent quality of service.

The Atlantic Tower, Liverpool.



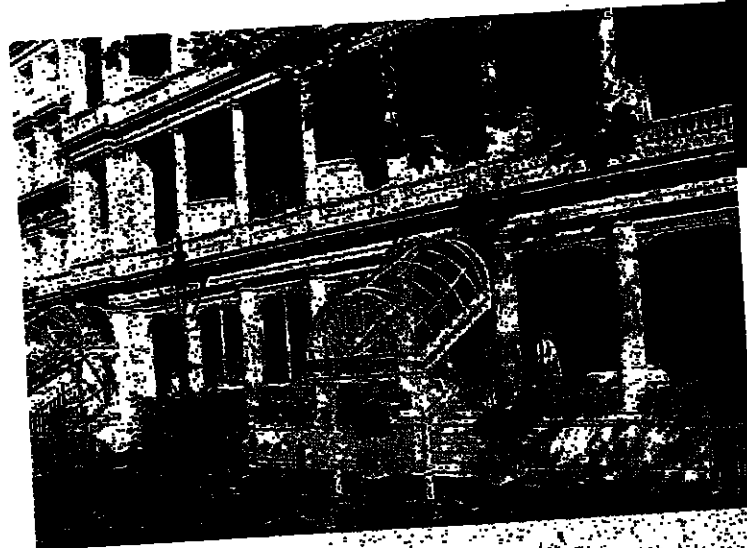
Cannizzaro House, Wimbledon.



New Barbican, London.



Audleys Wood, Basingstoke.



Whites Hotel, London



The Tower Hotel, London.

The Haydock Thistle, Haydock.



The Grosvenor, London.



THE THISTLE HOTELS SHARE OFFER HAS NOW BEGUN. CALL FOR DETAILS.

For information about the Share Offer and shareholder incentives,
contact your stockbroker or call one of the following share shops:

- City Deal Services 0800 437437
- Hargreaves Lansdown 0500 404055
- Midland Stockbrokers 0800 210299
- NatWest Stockbrokers 0800 210212
- ShareLink 0345 665665
- Skipton Building Society 0800 1380800
- YorkSHARE 0800 736736

or write to Thistle Hotels Share Offer: FREEPOST Lon 7338, London EC2B 2LJ.



This advertisement has been issued by, and is the sole responsibility of, Thistle Hotels Plc and approved by Hargreaves Lansdown Limited ("Hargreaves") and Merrill Lynch International ("Merrill Lynch"), which are regulated by the S.F.A. solely for the purposes of section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986. Hargreaves and Merrill Lynch are acting exclusively for Thistle Hotels Plc and will not be responsible to anyone else for providing the information or advice to their customers nor for providing advice in relation to its proposed share offer. The value of shares will go down as well as up. Please consider the risks of investing in shares. "Call for details" only.

هكذا من الأصل

Unions v the Labour Party: Frontbencher dismisses resolution at Blackpool as Blair's call for ballot in post dispute is spurned

TUC wants a minimum of £4.26 per hour

JOJO MOYES and BARRIE CLEMENT

In defiance of the Labour Party and warnings from the Tories of a million job losses, the TUC yesterday carried a motion backing a minimum wage of £4.26 an hour.

Better news for Labour however came from the CBI, which although arguing that the TUC figure would cause 100,000 redundancies, agreed to serve on the Low Pay Commission envisaged by Tony Blair, which would take evidence and advise the government on a minimum.

The resolution passed by the TUC at its annual congress in Blackpool yesterday was dismissed as "predictable" by Labour's employment spokesman, Ian McCartney.

In order to lessen the embarrassment to Mr Blair, the TUC also passed a resolution in support of a minimum rate of £4 as "reasonable". A third decision means no figure would be recommended by the TUC until after the election.

There were appeals for unity and calm during a heated debate as unions expressed their support for the two figures.

John Edmonds, of the GMB, which supported the £4 figure, said that despite unprecedented support among voters and businesses for a minimum wage, the unions were embarking on a "dangerous" row.

"They are nervous people,"



A question of money: A security officer at the M11 extension in east London. He gets £3.30 an hour, working a 72-hour week. Photograph: Brian Harris

these politicians on the eve of an election. If we over-reach ourselves we know what will happen," Mr Edmonds said. "The party leadership will rubbish our figure, some of the Labour movement will cry betrayal and not only will we damage our chances of getting a decent minimum wage, we might even damage the Labour Party's chances in the next election."

A rapturously received Arthur Scargill, leader of the Socialist Labour Party and president of the NUM, who supported a figure of £4.26, said the TUC had become known as the "hedge factory". "I'm fed up to the back teeth with people telling us not to rock the boat before a general election... let's exert our independence and go for £4.26," he said. That figure was also supported by the fire brigades union and the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers.

Gwen Macleod, a machinist for Pretty Polly paid between

People on low pay: Who gets what

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES EARNING LESS THAN ... (£1,000's)

	Full-time	Part-time	All
MEN			
£2.50	248	185	433
£3	434	269	703
£3.50	768	324	1,092
£4	1,313		
WOMEN			
£2.50	245	418	663
£3	474	780	1,254
£3.50	831	1,524	2,355
£4	1,271	2,096	3,367
ALL			
£2.50	493	565	1,058
£3	908	965	1,873
£3.50	1,619	1,793	3,412
£4	2,584	2,620	5,204

PERCENTAGE OF WORKERS EARNING LESS THAN ... (%)

	£2.50	£3	£3.50	£4
RETAIL TRADE	10.5	17.5	33.8	47.1
WAITERS	18.2	32.6	45.9	60.0
CLEANERS	8.4	16.7	41.9	48.4

Source: Richard Dickens & Steve Machin, The Centre for Economic Performance, LSE

Postal leader rejects Blair

BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

Despite his own private misgivings the leader of the postal workers yesterday brushed aside Tony Blair's call for a ballot to end the dispute at the Royal Mail.

Alan Johnson, general secretary of the Communication Workers' Union, said that the conflict was "not a matter for the Labour Party". Referring to criticism by both Mr Blair and Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, Mr Johnson said: "Comments by politicians come thick and fast. We're quite used to it. We don't need anybody to teach us lessons on how to conduct our affairs."

Mr Blair said yesterday he thought the package on offer from management was "reasonable" and that it should be recommended in a ballot of members.

Mr Johnson took the same line as the Labour leader at a meeting of his executive on Tuesday and was once more overturned by his colleagues.

By a majority of 14 to 9 the union's postal executive decided to intensify action by calling employees out on Friday 20 September and Monday 22 September, thus spreading the disruption over the weekend.

Mr Johnson is known to believe privately that a settlement should be recommended. In public he represented the views of his executive. The union is resisting the introduction of "team-working" as part of a range of efficiency measures.

Leaders of the RMT transport union predicted "yes" votes in strike ballots among guards and catering staff at eight train operating companies to be announced today. The operators concerned are Anglia; Cardiff; Gatwick Express; InterCity West Coast; the Island Line; London, Tilbury and Southend; South West Trains and Thames Trains.

Stoppages were ahead yesterday at ScotRail; North West Regional Railways; Regional Railways North East; and South Wales and the West.



THINK THE LINK SALE!

HALF PRICE CELLNET DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE

PLUS FREE CALLS WORTH OVER £90*

Panasonic G400 Mobile Phone

- Up to 80 minutes talktime/14 hours standby
- Send and receive short messages

SALE PRICE £14.99**

Digital technology gives you call clarity and privacy. Low cost tariffs and local call saver option.

Per-second billing. Use outside the UK. Add features for details.

FREE LOCAL WEEKEND CALLS

Motorola m301 Digital Mobile Phone

- Up to 70 minutes talktime/12 hours standby
- 99 name and number memory
- Last number redial

SALE PRICE £9.99

FREE LINE RENTAL FOR 1 MONTH*

Orange Motorola m1 Digital Mobile Phone

- Up to 60 minutes talktime/11 hours standby

FREE TRAVEL PACK usually £39.99

SALE PRICE £9.99

FREE LINE RENTAL FOR 3 MONTHS*

Sony 444 Mobile Phone

- Up to 80 minutes talktime/20 hours standby
- 99 name and number memory

SALE PRICE £9.99

The Link

The Link has a huge range of mobile phones and communications products to choose from. There are unbeatable offers every week to make talk cheaper, and expert, friendly staff to help you choose. And right now, you'll find even more amazing bargains in The Link Sale, so hurry down today.

FREEPHONE 0500 222 666
FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE AND TO ORDER DIRECT

CORDLESS PHONES - SAVE UP TO £10

Sharp CLS150

- Speaker phone base unit
- 10 number automatic dialling
- Paging facility

SALE PRICE £79.99

Geemarc M400

- 2-way intercom
- 9 memories

SALE PRICE £44.99

BT FREESTYLE 100

- With digital answer machine
- 10 number memory
- 100 tone range

NEW £129.99

FAX MACHINES SAVE UP TO £30

BT DF50

- 20 number memory
- Copier facility
- Hands free dialling

SALE PRICE £199.99

Samsung SF30

- On-hook dialling
- Auto fax/phone switch

SALE PRICE £189.99

Sharp UX70

- 15 sheet document feeder
- 15 number automatic dialling

SALE PRICE £229.99

ANSWERING MACHINES SAVE UP TO £25

BT RESPONSE 50

- Time/day stamp
- Call screening
- Remote access

HURRY! LIMITED STOCK. SALE PRICE £34.99

Betacom SOLO

- Remote access
- One button operation

SALE PRICE £24.99

BT RESPONSE 100

- With telephone
- 10 number memory
- Memo facility

SALE PRICE £49.99

TELEPHONES - SAVE £10

SAISHO LADY 100

- Tone/pulse dialling
- Last number redial
- Ring volume control

SALE PRICE £14.99

PHILIPS PACE 100

- 12 number memory
- Last number redial

SALE PRICE £17.99

PLUS 100'S MORE OFFERS IN STORE

THINK The Link

PEACE OF MIND
Freedom to cancel your contract if your circumstances change, for a one-off fee of just £15.

UK'S BIGGEST RANGE
Choose from the widest range of communication products on the High Street.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
If you are not completely satisfied, return your purchase for a refund within 14 days for mobile phones, 7 days for all other products.

THE LINK PRICE PROMISE
If you find exactly the same package elsewhere locally within 7 days, we will refund the difference.

IMPARTIAL EXPERT ADVICE
Our staff are experts in all communication products and will be happy to help you make the choice that's right for you.

*When you connect to Digitalnet Cable, months 11, 12 and 13 are free. **£5.50 worth of calls per month for 14 months. When you connect to Regular Caller Plus. ***When you connect to a Cellnet digital tariff. ****When you connect to Orange. *****When you connect to One 2 One. Price without connection £99.99. Excludes calls to other mobile phones. **When you connect to Talk 60. Connection to mobiles is subject to status. Ask us for details.



Innocent until proven guilty... Are children really as depraved as they've been painted? Blake Morrison looks behind the myths of modern childhood

Karia's people: Leslie Collett on the secrets of the world's greatest spymaster

Plus: Helen Fielding enjoys the high life, Michael Bywater just loves the low life, and Robert Cushman gets to the bottom of Harold Pinter

IN THIS WEEKEND'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

هكذا من الأصل

Measure for measure: jeans get a custom-made code



Hold your breath: A teenager lies in the obligatory pose for wriggling into a skintight pair of jeans

Photograph: Peter Macdiamid

Any woman who has walked up and down the high street in search of a pair of jeans that stays up without belt and braces, or doesn't require an excruciating squeezing session to do up, will welcome the latest marketing move by Levi Strauss, the US jeans manufacturers.

In what is thought to be the first project of its kind in Europe, women can order customised denim, as Levi's pilot a "Personal Pair" scheme in their flagship store in Regent Street, London, and in Sheffield. Shoppers will be able to walk into the stores and be measured for a pair of personally tailored jeans.

This is not a venture into the world of haute couture for Levi's, but rather a marketing concept known as "mass customisation". Under the scheme, a woman's measurements, name and address are fed into a computer. Customers then try on jeans from Levi's pool of more than 300 prototypes. The measurements are then amended to ensure a perfect fit.

The process should take around 20 minutes. The customer's details are sent to the

Glenda Cooper reports on a new jeans-by-computer look for British women

Levi factory in Belgium, where computer-controlled tools precision cut the jeans, and stitch an individual barcode inside. The jeans are then sewn and washed, identified by the code and shipped to the customer's home or to the shop where they were bought. The whole process should take around 21 days. But there is a premium - the tailored jeans will cost £65 compared to £46 for a standard pair.

If the scheme proves as popular here as it has in the United States and Canada, Levi's will consider offering the service across Europe, and extending it to include men.

But the fashion sceptics are not enthusiastic. "If I was being unkind I would say it was a gimmick," said Eric Musgrove, associate publisher of *FW Magazine* (formerly *Fashion Weekly*).

"If I was being kind I would say this was just an extreme ex-

ample of giving good service to jeanswear customers."

Mr Musgrove sees the scheme as part of a wider trend where jeans companies offer a range of fits and leg lengths, as well as cuts specifically for women. "In the last three or four years there has been much greater awareness that you can't get young women to buy men's baggy jeans, particularly as a much slimmer look has come into fashion."

"Historically and socially jeans have come a long way. Gianni Versace now has a line called Jeans Couture, which is a contradiction in terms. Jeans are acceptable in virtually any social situation, and that is reflected in the price. They can cost in excess of £45 to £50."

But he was unsure that the Personal Pair scheme would catch on in a big way. "I think it is for women with odd body shapes," he said.

Banks' student loans deal collapses

FRAN ABRAMS
Education Correspondent

Government plans for a twin-track student loans scheme run partly by the banks have been abandoned, ministers announced yesterday.

The proposals, originally due to be implemented this October, had already been delayed for a year because of problems in arranging the deal.

Now financial institutions will be invited to "buy" part of the existing debt and the administration of the existing loans scheme could be contracted out. Students will still be able to take out loans on exactly the same basis as before.

Ministers had hoped that in future the banks would take on much of the cost of running student loans, but the banks were initially sceptical about the idea. Barclays, The Clydesdale Bank and National Home Loans did eventually bid for the contract, and had been expecting an announcement at the end of July. Yesterday they said they were shocked and disappointed at the Government's change of heart.

Last night some of those involved speculated that the banks might have been demanding more guarantees than were on offer. The Government tried to set up a loans scheme involving the banks seven years ago, but on that occasion they pulled out.

Making the announcement Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, said that £2bn in outstanding loans had built up

since the scheme was launched in 1990. The Government aimed to transfer the financial risk from the scheme to the private sector, but it was hard to identify in advance how such changes could come about.

"We have concluded that in the immediate future our long-term goals can best be achieved through the sale of part of the existing student debt and the strategic contracting out of the administrative work of the Student Loans Company," she said.

The existing loans company is wholly owned by the Government and funded by the Treasury. The twin-track scheme would have given students the choice of a government loan or one on the same terms from a bank.

Last night the loans company's chief executive, Colin Ward, said the failure to strike a deal reflected the efficiency with which it was able to do the job.

"Our cost-effectiveness had to be matched, and obviously the banks haven't been able to reach a deal with the Government. We take a positive feeling from that, and it is our intention to continue with our extensive programmes to increase that efficiency," he said.

A spokesman for Barclays said the bank was disappointed by the decision.

"We believe our proposals would have brought benefits to students in terms of quicker turn-round time on application, improved access through our 2,000 branches and faster availability of funds," he said.

free eurostar return ticket

with every first class business return

"One who follows a carrot
may not be a donkey.
But one who does not,
is surely an ass."

E. CANTONA.

DAILY POEM

Enypnion

By Peter Redgrove

A bee in the library
Of elm books and oak books,
Holly shelves,
Ivy shelves,
The drowsy-house,
The dreamlike slumber in books;

Polishing the windows
of the drowsy-house
That open to and fro
One sees out of the leaves;

I open the book and its honey runs over,
The supple binding polished with beeswax,
The dark-veined pages,
The whispering leaves
Inscribed with sentences that hum
In the amber twilight,

A gentleman's library
In which to drowse
That is full of Virgil
Who has retired,
Who has finished with all
Heroes larger than beesize.

The Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry 1996 has just been awarded to Peter Redgrove. It is the culmination of a string of awards, the Cholmondeley and Prix Italia among them, for a poetic output that has spanned three decades. Redgrove is a complex and sometimes impenetrable poet, the deft hand of the surrealist masking an integrated and consistent vision of the universe in which man ultimately plays a minor role. A new collection - from which this poem is taken - *Assembling a Ghost* will be published by Cape in November (£7). Redgrove will be reading during the Poetry International festival at the South Bank, London, 25 October to 3 November.

*Free ticket is a standard class Eurostar return. Offer applies to business first and premium first tickets that are issued in the UK for travel on or before December 31st 1996. Free-ticket travel must be completed by 31st March 1997 and is subject to availability.

0345 30 30 30
or see your travel agent

Tory activists told of poll's glittering prize

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

John Major has privately told party workers that the prize awaiting the winner of the next general election will be the best economic prospects since the First World War.

Speaking to party workers and supporters at a private dinner, the Prime Minister said he did not want "woolly thinking" to throw away the opportunity facing the Tories. His speech, filmed by a Saatchi and Saatchi team for use in the election campaign, showed the main Tory campaign attack against Labour: that the voters risk throwing it all away. This ignores evidence in the *Independent* that the rising public debt will force the next government to consider tax increases. But Mr Major told the faithful at a

hotel in Bristol that he wanted the next five years of Tory government to concentrate for the first time on social policy, law and order and changes to education. He promised legislation in November to introduce minimum sentences for sexual and violent crimes, burglary and drug dealing, which would be far more severe than those handed down over recent years. On education, he wanted a

wider role for grant-maintained schools, selection, streaming, the return of grammar schools and single-sex schools. "I would love to see in the next five years legislation dominated from the family view upwards, not the bureaucratic view downwards," Britain was enjoying low inflation, low interest rates, and stable growth. "That is the message I would like to get over on every doorstep, God help me."

I don't wish that to be thrown away. The next election would be a watershed like 1979, when the Tories came to power. The 1983, 1987 and 1992 elections were not watersheds. "It is true in 1997. Although I must not give you the date of the election, do not go on holiday in the spring," Mr Major said. "It is true next time for this reason - the party that wins the endorsement of the British nation at the next general election will inherit the best and most secure economic prospects of any incoming government for the past 70 years. That is the prize."

Mr Major said Labour presented themselves as "born-again moderates". But he attacked the Social Chapter which Labour would sign for threatening jobs, and Scottish devolution, which would break up the UK. "The opportunity

for this country if we build on what has been gained by what we have done and in a sense what the country has suffered over the last five years, is limitless. What a tragedy it would be if woolly thinking were to throw away so much of what has been achieved in the last 17 years, and the opportunities that lie ahead in the next five."

There was still the chance of winning back support to the Tory flag which had existed in the past, he said, and he privately appealed for the support of his party and MPs in getting the message to "those people who have a stake in this country who would lose if there was a change of direction. I do not say it lightly when I say there is more at stake... than there has been for many years past. That is the message we have to go out to the country with."

On the stump: Labour targets West Midlands businesses and industry as the John and Norma show go calling on Avon

JCB boss and men in suits join Blair fan club

ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

Leaving behind the backstabbing rows at Blackpool's Trades Union Congress, Tony Blair yesterday flew to the West Midlands to win the high praise of one of the country's biggest private industrialists.

On a swift visit to industry and business in the region - taking in boardroom, shop floor, business park, and a behind-the-scenes stint in a Coventry McDonald's - the Labour leader hit the ground running after the party's stumbling performance with the union barons.

As Mr Blair regurgitated the sound bite of the day for the umpteenth time - "Unions will make claims, employers will make claims, we govern for the whole country" - an aide commented: "We turn every crisis into an opportunity."

Having been presented by the Conservatives as a man at the mercy of the unions, Mr Blair used the day to display the fact that he was nobody's patsy.



The human touch: Tony Blair serves up milkshakes in a Coventry McDonald's yesterday

Photograph: Tom Pilstow

helicopter to his Staffordshire factory outside Uttoxeter, Sir Anthony endorsed the Labour leader: "He's a very refreshing politician."

But Sir Anthony, former president of the local Conservative Association in Burton, a Tory marginal seat, and a donor to the Conservative Party, went significantly further. Asked whether he might one day make a contribution to the Labour coffers, he told *The Independent*: "We'll wait and see how they go on in

government." Later, realising his mistake, Sir Anthony added, "If they are elected, I."

Mr Blair was quick to exploit JCB as an example of the enterprise he wanted to encourage: high investment, strong on training and a shop floor partnership between the union and an enlightened management. "It's how most trade unions do work," he said.

On the shop floor, where he told the Conservatives these days, "Mr Blair said."

The tour ended with the human touch. Having driven a JCB earth shifter off the production line in Staffordshire, Mr Blair went to a McDonald's, where he served milkshakes - without charge - to a couple of mothers.

It might not win the votes of those he meets, but it certainly wins much media coverage to sell the message of the day. "We are going to get beyond the damaging battles of the past," he told local BBC radio, "and offer a better, more just, more prosperous future."

man touch. Having driven a JCB earth shifter off the production line in Staffordshire, Mr Blair went to a McDonald's, where he served milkshakes - without charge - to a couple of mothers.

It might not win the votes of those he meets, but it certainly wins much media coverage to sell the message of the day. "We are going to get beyond the damaging battles of the past," he told local BBC radio, "and offer a better, more just, more prosperous future."

Major sends autographs flying like confetti

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

John Major yesterday said that Labour's lead in the opinion polls was "flaky". Standing on the dockside near Bristol he insisted the tide was turning against Tony Blair's New Labour Party.

A change of atmosphere is becoming apparent everywhere, up and down the country. It is a while before it is reflected by the fashionable opinion formers," he said.

If autograph hunters decided the outcome, Mr Major would be home and dry. He handed out signatures like confetti at the Sovereign shopping mall in Weston-Super-Mare, Avon, when he went on a walkabout with his wife, Norma.

The John and Norma show was delayed for nearly two hours while Mrs Major visited the printers in Frome to get hold of the first copy of her latest book, a history of the Prime Minister's country residence, Chequers, to give to the Queen at Balmoral at the weekend.

But the shoppers waited patiently to meet the Prime Minister, emphasising that Mr Major and his soap box remain the Tory secret weapon. Few of the autograph hunters in the Tory constituency held by Jerry Wiggin appeared to be committed voters for the party.



Major on walkabout yesterday Photograph: Christopher Jones

The anecdotal evidence in some of the key marginals is that the Liberal Democrats may gain but they could be squeezed, helping the Tories, if enthusiasm grows for Mr Blair. At the moment there is little sign of that.

John and Norma signed T-shirts for two men who said they were from a local alcohol and drug rehabilitation unit. "I voted for Maggie Thatcher in 1979 and I am going to vote for Mr Major. It's always been that way," one said.

Emerging from the media scrum, Janet Lambert, a Green Party voter, said: "I don't agree with anything he says but I still respect him as Prime Minister. I would rather have him than Tony Blair."

Bill Gibson, 58, who runs a small gift shop on the front, said the Government had lost the

support of the elderly who are a predominant force for the Tories in retirement resorts. "It's lack of action and lack of confidence," he said.

The demand for the Prime Minister's autograph raised the question why they were not going to vote Conservative? He is undoubtedly popular pressing the flesh but there may also be a shrewd market demand for his signature while stocks last.

Mr Major is learning trade craft before the camera crews and he refused to be interviewed squinting into the sunlight at a photo opportunity. There were rumours that he was suffering from a hangover after partying with local supporters. His aides insisted that he was given two painkillers for a different reason - he had a pain in the neck.

Up to £150 paid for your credit cards.

We'll pay you up to £150 to switch from Access, VISA, MasterCard, Amex or store cards.

If you've got up to £3,000 outstanding on credit cards or store cards, switch to Barclaycard. Subject to approval, we'll credit you with 5% of your outstanding balance immediately.

So, on a balance of £1,000 we'll give you £50, and on a balance of £3,000 you'll get the full £150. Plus you'll enjoy the unique benefits that only Britain's most popular credit card can give you.

Simply call 0800 49 29 29 now, quoting 170 BXX or return the coupon and we'll send you full written details.

Please send the full written details on this offer and an application form.

☐ I wish to transfer a balance from another credit card(s) to my new Barclaycard.

Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms First Name(s) _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Telephone (Area) _____

Now send to Barclaycard, FREEPOST RS 4335, Bristol, BS1 3YX.

NO OBLIGATION NO STAMP REQUIRED

FREE BARCLAYCARD SERVICES

Automatic Purchase Cover

£50,000 Travel Accident Insurance

24 Hour International Rescue

Instant Cash

Up to 6 weeks Interest-Free Credit

Collect Profiles points for a range of free gifts

CLAIM UP TO £150

0800 49 29 29

CALL NOW AND QUOTE 170 BXX

BARCLAYCARD

Dixons

TOP BRAND SALE

SAVYO

SAVE £100 on this sensational Sanyo Camcorder

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

100s OF GREAT END OF LINE BARGAINS HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS Check your local store for details.

SAMSUNG VP100 8mm CAMCORDER WITH 8x POWER ZOOM Was £259.99	SAVE £30	SALE PRICE £369.99
SANYO VMEX280 8mm CAMCORDER WITH 10x POWER ZOOM Was £259.99	SAVE £50	SALE PRICE £449.99
SONY TR740 8mm CAMCORDER WITH 12x POWER ZOOM Was £549.99	SAVE £50	SALE PRICE £499.99
SONY TR730 8mm CAMCORDER WITH 12x OPTICAL ZOOM Was £549.99	SAVE £50	SALE PRICE £499.99
SHARP VL557 8mm VHS CAMCORDER WITH 8x POWER ZOOM Was £649.99	SAVE £50	SALE PRICE £599.99
CANON UC30 8mm CAMCORDER WITH 20x OPTICAL ZOOM Was £799.99	SAVE £100	SALE PRICE £699.99
SONY TR780 8mm CAMCORDER WITH 24x DIGITAL ZOOM Was £799.99	SAVE £100	SALE PRICE £699.99

Dixons Deal

VMEX480 8mm CAMCORDER WITH 15x POWER ZOOM

- Hi-Fi stereo sound
- A-A dry history compatibility
- Remote control

Was £599.99, £549.99, EXCLUSIVE

£499.99

Dixons

There's a great deal going on

*INTEREST FREE OPTION

INSTANT CREDIT UP TO £1000

Account interest free if repaid in full before the 12th monthly repayment

Minimum Cash price £499.99 5% discount from amount £4 to 99

Emulatepay 12 monthly payments of £15.70 and the balance of

£299.99 below for with the 12th monthly payment

(Total amount £499.99 APR 22.9%)

Subject to status, written credit questionnaire available on request from Dixons PCMC, Kewley Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 1TG

27.8%

هكذا من الأصل

SUN ALLIANCE CONNECTIONS, LINDEN HOUSE, CHART WAY, HORSHAM, W. SUSSEX.
RH11 1UR. IF YOU WOULD PREFER NOT TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ON OTHER
ALLIANCE SERVICES, PLEASE MAKE US AWARE WHEN YOU CALL.

international

Gold loses its glitter for the Swiss gnomes

Banks' wealth built on Holocaust loot

IMRE KARACS
Bonn

The glittering symbols of Switzerland's wealth are piled in the vaults of the capital's most imposing building, the neo-classical National Bank on Bern's Bundesplatz. The gold ingots which underpin the world's hardest currency have until recently been a source of national pride but now they are beginning to lose their lustre.

It turns out that some of the gold is stained with the blood of Holocaust victims. The Swiss parliament, pressed by the US and Britain, is to set up a commission of historians to investigate what is left of the Nazi loot. There is quite a lot, according to Gian Trepp, who has written a book on the Bank for International Settlements and its dealings with the Nazis.

He said that the German Reichsbank sold \$1,700m of bullion to the Swiss National Bank. "It was only in Switzerland that the Germans could buy foreign currency."

Some of the gold was legal Reichsbank property but most was plundered from the occupied countries. After the war, when the Swiss struck a deal with the Allies to hand over the

loot, they came up with a tiny estimate of their illegal hoard. The Allies collected \$250m; the rest remains in Bern.

"They [the Swiss] were perfectly aware that it was stolen gold," Mr Trepp said. Among material never returned was 58 tonnes of bullion from the Belgian central bank, large amounts from Italy and the Netherlands and a smaller quantity bought from the Prussian mint. The Prussian ingots contained gold from the teeth of Auschwitz inmates.

The authorities, it seems, have been ignorant for the past five decades of the source of their banks' wealth. "The establishment - the politicians and the finance sector - wanted to know nothing," said Oskar Scheiben, a journalist, whose paper, *Zürcher Wochenzeitung*, has been trying to expose the banks' dealings. Historians dismissed his disclosures and politicians declined the temptation to delve into the murky past. Those seeking the gold were denounced as agitators.

Even now, as US archives disgorge documents detailing Switzerland's wartime trade, Bern remains silent. "The Swiss government has nothing to hide," said a spokesman.



Gold rush: A lot of the spoils of the Nazi conquest ended up in Swiss vaults

Photomontage: Jonathan Anstee

"We cannot comment on these allegations."

Since the ingots do not reveal their origin, any attempt to separate German state property from Nazi loot is likely to be almost impossible. Apart from bullion, Swiss bank accounts are still believed to shelter deposits made during the war by the

Nazis as well as their victims. Both should have been handed to Holocaust survivors years ago but Jewish groups argue that the gnomes of Zurich are reluctant to yield their treasure. We know the money is here but nobody knows where it is," said Iolanda Cross, a social worker. "Only today we had someone from

France looking for his parents' account."

Finding the lost accounts is the task of Hans-Peter Haeni, the ombudsman appointed last year to mediate between claimants and the banks. Since last September he has collected 2,300 names and sent them to the banks in two batches but

has yet to get a reply. "There are so many misunderstandings," he said. "We need more time."

The historians to be appointed by parliament will also take time on their research. They are expected to report their findings next year - 52 years after the end of the war.

Letters, page 15

DANIEL JEFFRIES

The US government has joined the growing international hunt for hidden Nazi gold. It is expected to demand that Swiss banks over-ride their strict rules of secrecy in the search for assets stolen from Holocaust victims.

Officials in the US State Department, US Treasury and Department of Commerce confirmed yesterday that they began an investigation six months ago after the World Jewish Congress discovered that Swiss banks may have received more than \$7bn in stolen Jewish assets in the Second World War.

Pressure is building in the US for a full accounting by Switzerland of its relationship with the Nazi government and its practice of accepting what were clearly stolen goods, according to secret US intelligence documents obtained by the congress. "We know the Swiss have accounts which contain stolen Jewish property," Elan Steinberg, its executive director, said. "We don't know if it is the Swiss banks," clearly is not the Swiss banks."

The US government's investigation, assisted by the congress, is focusing on a secret fund that would be worth \$2bn in today's money. The fund was established to help finance the resurrection of the Nazi party after the war. The US and the congress suspect that some money in that fund, stolen from Holocaust victims, may have been funnelled to prominent manufacturers such as Volkswagen, Leica, Zeiss and Krupp Steel. The congress is awaiting answers from all those companies in response to inquiries it made in June.

The congress found out about Swiss complicity in "cloaking" stolen Jewish assets after being given full access to the American national archive, which includes all US intelligence gathered on the matter during the war. One secret US document opened for the first time this week revealed that some of the gold discovered by the Allies in 1945 at a salt mine, totalling more than 800 ingots, was obtained from melting down the gold fillings of Holocaust victims.

"That fact alone is enough for us to push this enquiry until we have the full truth," Steinberg said.

Red Cross officials in Switzerland may also be involved, he added.

Romania brings back ban on gays

ADRIAN BRIDGE
Central Europe Correspondent

Less than two months before a general election, Romanian parliamentarians have outraged human-rights activists by seeking to criminalise homosexuality between consenting adults.

An overwhelming majority of MPs in the lower house would like to see the reintroduction of legislation originally passed under the Communist dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu, by which homosexuals could face up to five years in jail.

The London-based human rights group, Amnesty International, condemned the proposed new law as "a backwards step" which, if ratified, would be "the worst such law in Europe".

Other opponents say the law flies in the face of the Romanian government's promise to bring its legislation on homosexuals into line with more liberal European norms following its accession to the Council of Europe in 1993. "This is clearly an anti-European attitude that pays no respect to human rights," Chris-



Iliescu: Must give approval

tian Radulescu, of the opposition Democratic Party, said. A combination of the ruling Social Democracy Party, nationalists and the opposition Peasant Party ensured an overwhelming victory for reinstatement of the law in a parliamentary vote on Tuesday. The decision has to be approved by the Senate and President Ion Iliescu, which is unlikely to be completed before the elections in early November.

Much of the pressure for the law has come from Romania's Orthodox church, which condemns homosexuality as "the tyranny of selfish, barren passion". At its instigation, hundreds of thousands of Romanians have signed petitions calling for a return of the ban.

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, all other countries in the region have decriminalised homosexuality.

HOUSE INSURANCE

SAVE 50% OR UP TO 50% MORE
LONDON & HOME COUNTIES
£100,000 Buildings Sum Insured
Premium Only £154.00
LOWER Premiums in Most Other Areas
Ring NOW to Save Money
0345 123111
All calls charged at local rate

Hill House Hammond
Cutting The Cost Of Your Insurance

How to Become an Import/Export Agent

How would you like to run a business where you earn money from goods you never have to handle, belonging to someone you don't have to meet, and sell to someone else you also don't have to meet - and all this without ever having to put your own money at risk?

A new guide shows how to set yourself up as an import/export agent, find your first agency and go on to expand and secure your share of the tremendous opportunities that exist in world trade to put buyers and sellers together, working entirely from home... part-time only, if you prefer.

When to ask for the agency
How to make a watertight agreement
You will find the answers to these questions and much, much more in *How to Become a Successful Import/Export Agent* - including actual agreements you can adapt, a comprehensive list of useful names and addresses as well as a detailed blueprint on how to set up your new agency.

This manual really is all you need to start a small import/export agency from home - no capital or previous experience needed.

To order your copy of *How to Become a Successful Import/Export Agent* send your name, address and book title with payment (cheque, Switch or Visa/Access with expiry date) of £15 which includes postage and handling to: Carnell Ltd, Dept. IEA1, Alresford, nr. Colchester, Essex CO7 8AP, or telephone their 24 hour order line on 01206 825600 (quoting above Dept code). Allow up to 14 days for delivery. You may return the book any time within three months for a refund if not satisfied.

BUY NOW PAY UP TO 18 MONTHS LATER
ON LAUNDRY

ZANUSSI
1300 SPIN WASHING MACHINE
150-1200 spin/110 wash load
30 programmes/Economy wash
20 litres normal water consumption
Model FJ1298, was £599.99
normally £549.99

BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER
TRADE-IN SAVE
\$519.99 \$50
NEW AT COMET

HOTPOINT
FIRST EDITION 1000 SPIN
WASHING MACHINE
1000 spin/110 wash load
20 programmes/Economy wash
100 litres normal water consumption
Model WM119P, normally £249.99

BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER
TRADE-IN SAVE
\$299.99 \$50
NEW AT COMET

INDESIT
1100 SPIN WASHING MACHINE
1100 spin/110 wash load
20 programmes/Economy wash
100 litres normal water consumption
Model WD6119SV, normally £249.99

BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER
TRADE-IN SAVE
\$389.99 \$80
NEW AT COMET

HOTPOINT
TUMBLER DRYER
Aquarius drying system
1100 spin/110 wash load
20 programmes/Economy wash
Model TD121P, was £299.99

BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER
TRADE-IN SAVE
\$199.99 \$40
NEW AT COMET

BOSCH
12 place settings/4 programmes
Rinse aid dispenser/indicator
20 litres normal water consumption/Recessed drying
Model SMS4472, normally £249.99

BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER
TRADE-IN SAVE
\$359.99 \$70
NEW AT COMET

**BUY NOW PAY UP TO 18 MONTHS LATER
ON REFRIGERATION**

TRICITY BENDIX
44 GROSS CUFT
STANDARD FRIDGE
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET
CFC free
Full width salad crisper
Manual defrost
Dairy compartment
Model EC705, was £219.99

BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER
TRADE-IN SAVE
\$149.99 \$70
NEW AT COMET

SCANDINOVIA
4.5 GROSS CUFT CHEST FREEZER
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET
CFC free/Fast freeze facility
High temperature warning light
Model CF650, was £229.99
In-store £199.99

BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER
TRADE-IN SAVE
\$189.99 \$40
NEW AT COMET

ZANUSSI
4.5 GROSS CUFT UPRIGHT FREEZER
CFC free/4 star freezer rating
Fast freeze facility
Reversible door
Model ZVC45, normally £259.99

BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER
TRADE-IN SAVE
\$259.99 \$40
NEW AT COMET

BLOMBERG
10.0 GROSS CUFT
FRIDGE FREEZER
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET
5.1 gross cuft fridge capacity
4.8 gross cuft freezer capacity
CFC free/Fast freeze facility
2 salad crisper
Model CFH101, normally £549.99

BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER
TRADE-IN SAVE
\$429.99 \$120
NEW AT COMET

**BUY NOW PAY UP TO 18 MONTHS LATER
ON COOKING**

STOVES
FRIED SHOWN GAS COOKER
1000mm width/Spark ignition
Separate grill/Slow cook oven
Setting/Green with brass
handles and fittings
Model 500NL, was £279.99

BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER
TRADE-IN SAVE
\$399.99 \$80
NEW AT COMET

TRICITY BENDIX
ELECTRIC COOKER
500mm width/Combined oven
and grill/Self-heating plate
1 red and 2 solid plate
Model S821, was £199.99 previously £239.99

BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER
TRADE-IN SAVE
\$189.99 \$40
NEW AT COMET

LEISURE
GAS COOKER
1000mm width/Double oven
Spark ignition/Separate grill
Available in Racing Green
Royal Blue or Claret III
Electric and LPG bottled gas
versions available
Model 110 GR, normally £169.99

BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER
TRADE-IN SAVE
\$149.99 \$20
NEW AT COMET

BUY NOW PAY UP TO 18 MONTHS LATER
ON LAUNDRY
1998

PLUS NEW PRODUCT
RANGES NOW IN-STORE

WHIRLPOOL
1000 SPIN WASHING MACHINE
• 1000 spin
• C/F wash load
• 17 programmes
• Half load option
• Rinse and hold
• 95 litres normal water consumption
Model AW100, was £399.99

BUY NOW PAY 10 MONTHS LATER
TRADE-IN SAVE
\$299.99 \$100
NEW AT COMET

HOTPOINT
12.0 GROSS CUFT FROST-FREE
FRIDGE FREEZER
• 7.2 gross cuft fridge capacity
• 4.8 gross cuft freezer capacity
• CFC free • Automatic fridge defrost
• Fast freeze facility
• 2 salad crisper
• Reversible doors
• Colour options available
Model 859P Mistral, was £729.99
AS SEEN ON TV

BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER
TRADE-IN SAVE
\$599.99 \$130
NEW AT COMET

**HALF PRICE
LEISURE BREAKS**
When you purchase any laundry, refrigeration, cooking product or vacuum cleaner or microwave over £100

COMET
MOST STORES OPEN SUNDAY & UNTIL 8PM WEEKDAYS
RING FREE ON 0500 425 425 FOR DETAILS OF YOUR NEAREST STORE

SAVE UP TO £10
ON NEW SMALL APPLIANCES

SWAN CLASSIC WHITE
COOLWALL 3-SLICE TOASTER
Variable browning
control/Manual and auto
programmable thickness
in use/Frozen bread setting
Model AGSP1, was £24.99

NEW AT COMET

TEFAL CORDLESS JUG KETTLE WITH FILTER
Removable and washable
Irradiated filter/1.7 litre capacity
Water level gauge/On-off test
for safety, Model S9536
was £19.99 previously £24.99

NEW AT COMET

TEFAL COMPACT FRYER
1 litre of capacity
0.65kg food capacity
Safety locking lid
Model D875, was £29.99

NEW AT COMET

ROWENTA STEAM-SPRAY-IRON
Dry, wet, spray variable steam
plus boost/self-cleaning system
Angled soleplate
Model D8071, was £29.99
FREE MOBILE PHONE

NEW AT COMET

MOULINEX MASTERCHIEF FOOD PROCESSOR
300 watts power
Automatic speed control
Pulse control/1.5 litre capacity
Complete with accessories
Model D6632, was £49.99

NEW AT COMET

BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER
ON SELECTED CLEANERS

VAX CYLINDER
3 IN 1 CLEANER
Washes, polishes, carpets and
cleans up spills/150-1100
watts variable suction power
Unique roller-roller cleaning
head for easy cleaning
"Fibre-flow" carpet wash
system/On-board tools
Model S110, was £209.99
FREE EXCLUSIVE VAX
CARPET CARE KIT

VOUCHER OFFER: BUY NOW
PAY 6 MONTHS LATER
\$189.99 \$20
NEW AT COMET

HOOVER ALPHA CYLINDER CLEANER
1200 watts power/On-board tools
For easy access/4 litre dustbin
Model SC184, was £259.99
In-store £179.99

VOUCHER OFFER: BUY NOW
PAY 6 MONTHS LATER
\$179.99 \$35
NEW AT COMET

ELECTROLUX CYLINDER CLEANER
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET: 400-1350 watts variable power
Low noise level for quiet
operation/Unique roller-roller
cleaning system/On-board tools
Model S1025, was £249.99

VOUCHER OFFER: BUY NOW
PAY 6 MONTHS LATER
\$149.99 \$100
NEW AT COMET

ELECTROLUX WESTBAC VACUUM CLEANER
1200 watts power
Extra wide head for
tough cleaning
Backward handle and air
cleaning tube, Model 1480

VOUCHER OFFER: BUY NOW
PAY 6 MONTHS LATER
\$149.99 \$50
NEW AT COMET

SAVE UP TO £50
ON NEW MICROWAVES

WHIRLPOOL TOUCH
CONTROL MICROWAVE
1000 watts ECO/9 cu ft
capacity/9 power levels
Unique Double Entension System
to ensure even cooking with no
hot or cold spots
Model URM784, In-store £199.99

VOUCHER OFFER: BUY NOW
PAY 6 MONTHS LATER
\$149.99 \$50
NEW AT COMET

SHARP TOUCH CONTROL
MICROWAVE WITH GRILL
850 watts ECO/9 cu ft capacity
9 power levels/1200 watts grill
Model RG57

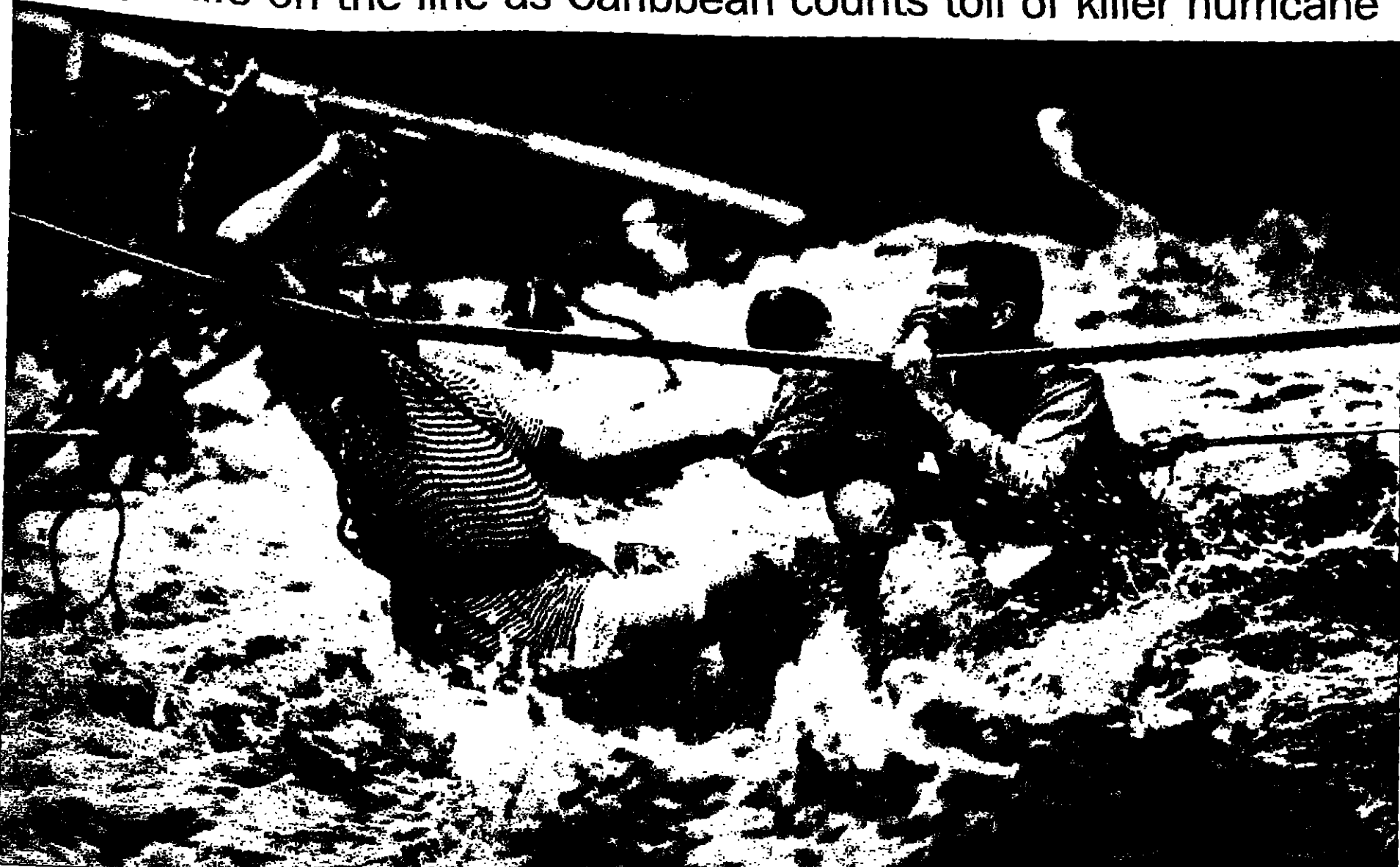
BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER
TRADE-IN SAVE
\$199.99 \$50
NEW AT COMET

PANASONIC COMBINATION MICROWAVE WITH
CONVECTION OVEN AND GRILL
850 watts ECO/9 cu ft capacity
6 power levels/1300 watts grill
Touch controls for precision cooking
Programmable for versatility
Model NN755, was £299.99

NEW AT COMET

PRICES UPDATED DAILY
Check the Comet Price Index. It's your guide
to the lowest prices around. Available on
Teletext Ch.4 P.425

Baby's life on the line as Caribbean counts toll of killer hurricane



Rescue workers fight to get one-year-old Cassandra Gomez to safety in Puerto Rico as floods caused by Hurricane Hortense left at least eight people dead and thousands homeless. The child, her father and three siblings were rescued after being cut off in a house for nine hours. Her mother was reported missing. Photograph: AP

B-52s on alert after Iraqis fire at US fighters

RUPERT CORNWELL
Washington

The US last night seemed poised for further retaliation against Saddam Hussein, after Iraqi forces yesterday fired a ground-to-air missile at two US fighters in the northern no-fly zone, and an Iraqi jet and helicopter both breached the "no-fly zone" in the south of the country.

"We reserve the right to take action to protect our pilots," the White House spokesman, Mike McCurry said, while the Pentagon said that the US "will take action" if its aircraft come under threat. To underline the warning, B-52 bombers like those used in last week's cruise missile strikes against Iraq have been moved closer, from their base on the Pacific island of Guam to Britain's Indian Ocean base of Diego Garcia. The US has also moved F-117 stealth bombers to the region, the Defense Secretary, William Perry, told reporters.

According to the Pentagon, the F-16s were attacked by a single Soviet-built SAM-6 missile. The missile missed its targets, but Iraqi radar was turned off

so quickly that the US aircraft had no time to return fire. But the language emanating from the White House yesterday seemed to leave little doubt that the omission would soon be made good.

The incident took place at mid-morning Iraqi time, 3.58am Washington time, midway between Zakho and Mosul in the northern, Kurdish-inhabited portion of northern Iraq. An Iraqi military spokesman said Baghdad's forces had launched three separate attacks against "the criminal American enemy and those who are taking part with it."

Further evidence that Washington is preparing the ground for a new series of attacks against Iraqi targets are the highly publicised accusations from the State and Defense departments that President Saddam is now rebuilding various air-defence installations in the south that had been destroyed by the 44 cruise missiles launched in last week's two strikes. New radar units had been brought in, officials say, implying that fresh action might be required to eliminate them.

As the game of cat-and-mouse continued between Baghdad and Washington, so did assessment of the diplomatic and domestic political repercussions of the renewed challenge from Iraq. Officially, the US insists that its earlier attacks have hamstringed the Iraqi leader in the south, where he poses the greatest strategic danger to Western interests.

But complaints are growing that President Bill Clinton has acted neither strongly enough nor in the right area to counter President Saddam. Senior Republican spokesmen like Senator John McCain of Arizona, a foreign-policy adviser of presidential candidate Bob Dole, argue that the US must inflict disproportionate damage on Iraq to deter further aggression and shore up US credibility.

And, Mr McCain and others claim, President Saddam's real power lies in his army and especially the Republican Guard, not with his air force and air defences. Thus far however Mr Dole has avoided direct criticism of Mr Clinton's handling of the crisis, which has largely driven his own faltering campaign from the news headlines.

Duma cleaners dish the dirt

PHIL REEVES
Moscow

Politics has always been dirty work, and nowhere more so than in Russia. But even the cleaners were appalled about just how filthy a business it has become behind the stately walls of the Duma, the nation's parliament.

So outraged were they by having to clean up on the morning-after-the-night-before they fired off memos to their supervisors which paint a horrifying picture. Excerpts published by the newspaper *Moskovskiy Komsomolets* reveal that, while the

Duma shapes the laws by day, by night it becomes the venue for sex and drinking sessions.

Despite numerous security guards and metal detectors at the building's giant doors, crime flourishes within. "Door knobs, locks, toilet paper, soap, glasses, cups, electrical hand dryers, telephones, mirrors - all disappear with horrible rapidity," said the paper. Lavatory roll dispensers have been stolen so often they are not now replaced.

One cleaner complained that she had been ordered to clear up faces in a hall. Sofas appear to be doomed - chunks of leather have been cut out of

them "as if someone was making a jacket", the paper said.

Accounts of brawls, gun-toting parliamentarians and all-night boozing sessions have emerged before. But this time the problem appears not so much to be the 450 members of parliament as their 10,000 or so assistants. They have swelled to such a number that the Moscow city authorities have complained that the public transport system can no longer cope.

Nor, it seems, can the Duma's cleaners. Officials quoted yesterday quibbled about the details of their allegations but few disputed they were true.

Rewarding work with children

Today, over 2 million children worldwide are successfully mastering mathematics with the popular Kumon method.

Kumon's success is due largely to the care and devotion of our ever expanding team of instructors. Each instructor works part-time on a self-employed basis running a study centre in their local area. Since first opening in this country demand for new Kumon centres has increased dramatically. We now need many more instructors and are looking for enthusiastic people to train in helping children learn the Kumon Method.

We are currently looking for instructors throughout the UK.

For a free information pack call Stephen Ward on 0181 343 3307.

KUMON MATHS

KUMON EDUCATIONAL UK, ELSGOTT HOUSE, ARCADIA AVENUE, LONDON N3 4JU
TEL: 0181 343 3307 FAX: 0181 343 2857

Fall of Afghan city could spell end for Kabul

RAYMOND WHITAKER

The balance of power in Afghanistan's 18-year civil war may have tilted decisively following the reported fall yesterday of Jalalabad, the country's main eastern town, to the rebel Taliban militia.

A Taliban commander told Afghan Islamic Press, a news service based in Pakistan, that they had taken Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar province, and its airport from forces loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani. The news service said this had been confirmed by its sources in Jalalabad. Earlier, a government spokesman admitted the airport had fallen and that fighting was raging in the town, 60 miles from Kabul.

The seizure of Jalalabad by Taliban, which controls nearly half Afghanistan, would tighten the encirclement of Mr Rabbani's government. The next target is likely to be Sarobi, the main town between Jalalabad and the capital. It is a stronghold of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who besieged Kabul for more than a year before joining forces with Mr Rabbani after the Taliban's appearance on the scene.

Jalalabad had escaped the devastation suffered by most of Afghanistan's towns by remaining out of the fighting among the movements which drove out the Communist regime in 1992. A coalition of

factions ruled the area, whose relative stability attracted refugees from other parts of Afghanistan. Kabul's forces moved into the town to try to head off the Taliban advance, but apparently too late. The Taliban, which has besieged Kabul for the past year, has pledged to install a purist Islamic order throughout Afghanistan.

Pakistan denies helping the Taliban and says it has no favourites among the Afghan factions, most of which it helped during their war against Soviet occupation in the 1980s. Before the battle for the town began, an apparent peace mission ended in the death of the Nangarhar governor, Engineer Mahmood, and six colleagues, shot dead while driving towards the Pakistan border.

AIP said the group seemed to be heading for peace talks with Taliban leaders. There was no immediate information who was responsible. Mahmood, a commander of the neutral Hezb-i-Islami faction of Maulvi Mohammad Younis Khalis, died hours after he had been appointed acting governor of Nangarhar. A Taliban source in the north-western Pakistani town of Peshawar, who did not want to be identified, said Mahmood had been in contact with the Taliban and had wanted to hand over Jalalabad peacefully to the Islamic militia.


BREITLING
1884



CHRONOMAT

At a time when instruments unerringly cope with Mach 1 flight data, continued improvements to the mechanical chronograph simply underscore that there's more to time than technology. A movement's intricate beauty or a hand-polished case's lustrous gleam do put technological progress in a broader perspective. Like the *Concord*, the world's first but surely not last supersonic transport, CHRONOMATS draw time and space ever closer with aesthetic excellence as well as outstanding technical performance.

GOLDSMITHS WALKER & HALL

THE MARK OF A FINE JEWELLER

Leading Watches are available in selected branches of the Goldsmiths Group, one of the country's leading quality retail jewellers with over 100 branches nationwide.

ABERDEEN • BRIGHTON • CAMBRIDGE • CANTERBURY • CHELMSFORD • DORSET • GLASGOW • LEAMINGTON SPA • LEEDS
LEICESTER • LONDON • MAIDENHEAD • NEWCASTLE • OXFORD • READING • THURROCK • WIMBORNE

For details of your nearest stockist call FREE on 0800 220733

INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS

Job cuts pose autumn threat of discontent

TONY BARBER
Europe Editor

Lazy summer is turning into turbulent autumn in Europe as trade unionists angered by national austerity policies and high unemployment prepare to take on their governments and employers.

A storm of labour unrest is gathering in France, Germany, Italy and the smaller EU countries. Depending on its duration and intensity, it could weigh heavily on the European Union's plan to launch the single currency, the euro, on schedule in January 1999.

Last weekend 240,000 workers marched through six German cities in protest at the attempts of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right government to impose austerity measures and other reforms, such as making it easier for companies to sack employees. In France, the seven main civil service unions called last Tuesday for a day of protest and strikes in mid-October as a way of mobilising resistance to government spending cuts and job losses.

The unions representing Italy's 1 million metal workers plan to stage a strike on 27 September to force compensation for falls in real wages. More industrial unrest is possible as the centre-left government of Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, prepares a 1997 budget that will aim to cut borrowing by 34.2 trillion lire (£13.7bn).

One common factor linking France, Germany, Italy and most other EU states is the determination of their governments to cut budget deficits so that they qualify for Euro under the Maastricht treaty terms. To be a founding-member of the

single currency, a country must have a 1997 budget deficit of 3 per cent or under of gross domestic product.

Some leeway above 3 per cent will in all probability be permitted, because recession-induced unemployment benefit payments and sluggish tax revenues mean that most EU states are well above the Maastricht target. This leads to another common factor across Europe: relentlessly high unemployment, ranging from more than 22 per cent in Spain to 12.5 per cent in France and

'The Maastricht criteria could drive Europe into recession'

10.2 per cent in Germany. What is angering trade unionists and left-wing political parties in EU member-states is not the single currency project as such, but the fact that the Maastricht timetable is leading governments to pursue deflationary policies, reduce benefits and allow unemployment to stay high when their economies seem in need of a boost.

John Edmunds, leader of the GMB union, told the Trades Union Congress in Blackpool on Tuesday: "Taken alone and applied rigidly, [the Maastricht] criteria could drive Europe back into recession and force unemployment upward."

However, like other union leaders around Europe, he said he feared the consequences for his country's prosperity and international influence if it did not

join Euro. "We had best take the tough option and go in, without enthusiasm," he said.

The Kohl government's austerity drive has provoked such a strong response from trade unionists that opposition Social Democrats have accused the Chancellor of threatening Germany's much-admired post-1945 social consensus. Equally, opponents of President Jacques Chirac of France are throwing back in his face the fact that he won election last year on a platform of reducing unemployment and healing France's social fractures.

However, both Mr Kohl and Mr Chirac are adamant that there is no going back. Mr Kohl, apart from being personally committed to the euro and to a politically united Europe, argues that Germans have had an easy life for too long.

Most Continental leaders express horror at the idea of sacrificing Europe's so-called "social dimension" for what they portray as the US law of the economic jungle.

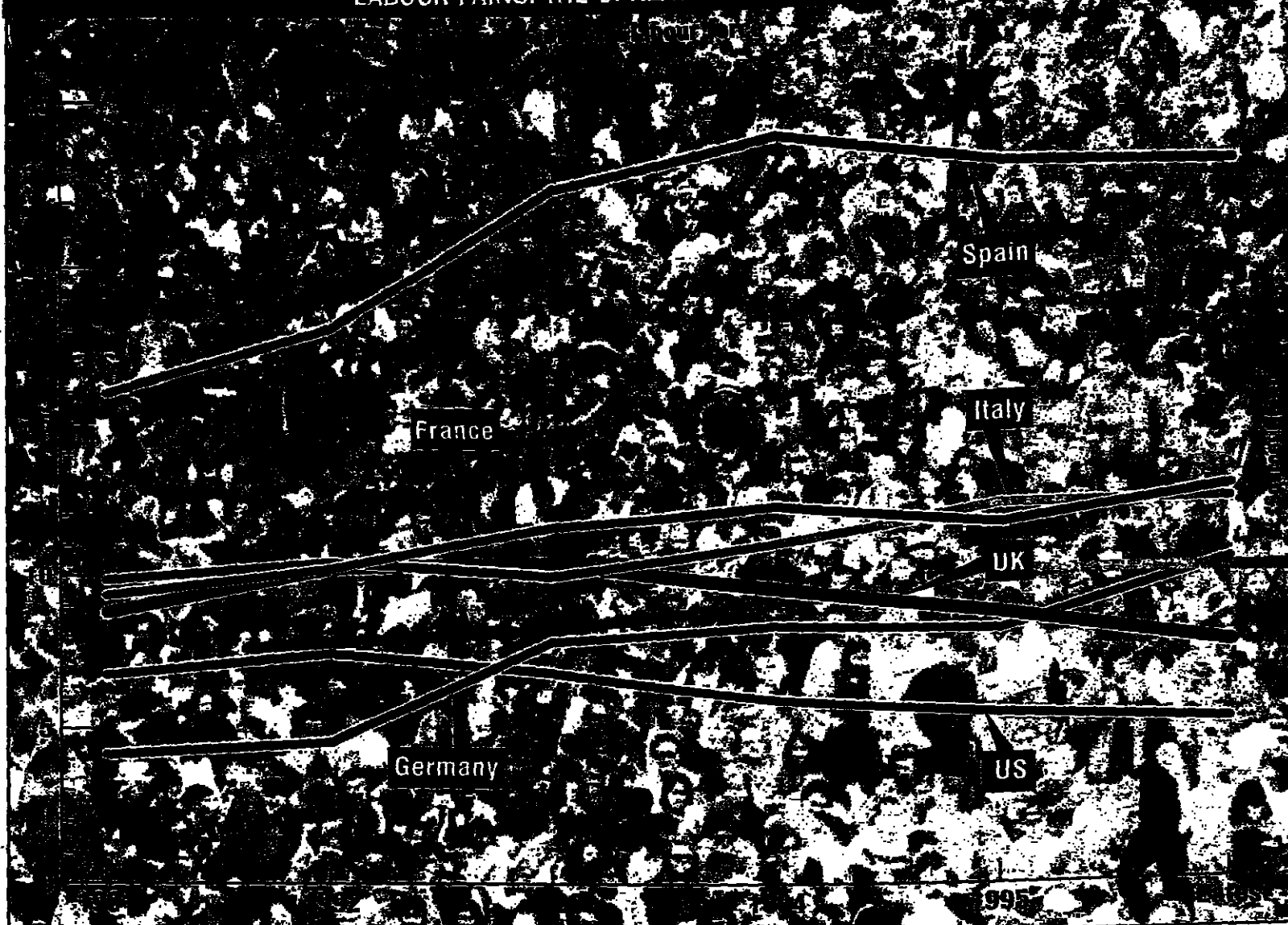
Somewhat ironically, it has been left to some of Europe's leading industrialists, bankers and rightist politicians to state the case against a 1999 launch for the euro.

Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, loses no opportunity to argue that monetary union, by making the single European market more efficient and productive, will ultimately be a job-creator. However, that is small consolation for Europe's 18 million unemployed, and the many millions more in insecure jobs who are increasingly associating their predicament with the Europe-wide belt-tightening necessary to launch the euro.



Santer: argues Euro will create jobs in long term

LABOUR PAINS: THE SPREAD OF UNEMPLOYMENT



Rites, monetary wrongs and the sacred text that leads to economic salvation

ANDREW MARSHALL

Before it is possible to get to grips with Europe's problems over jobs, budgets and a single currency, the language has to be penetrated.

Making the grade for a single currency is like getting to heaven, and the whole process has a slightly religious sound to it. The key text is the Maastricht treaty. No one who is anyone calls it that any more, by the way; the cognoscenti tend to refer to it as the Treaty on European Union, or TEU for short.

Maastricht lays out the path to monetary salvation in exhaustive (and largely incomprehensible) detail. It makes little sense because all sorts of bits are out of chronological

order, and the whole thing has to be read before any of it makes sense (if then). But here, for what it is worth, is the deal:

We are now in the Second Stage of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), which is the bit in between not having one. Soon, the EU hopes to enter the Third Stage, which is monetary union. That might be in 1999. It might be a while after that before we all use the same notes and coins; that, properly speaking, is a single currency.

But the only countries which can enter monetary union are those that have achieved Convergence. That means that they have attained roughly the same level of economic performance as the top EU countries.

Countries can tell whether they have achieved convergence by referring to the Convergence Criteria which are annexed to the Maastricht treaty. These are targets for inflation, the exchange rate, budget deficits and national debt. Meeting the convergence criteria means cutting back public spending, bringing down inflation and keeping the currency as solid as a rock.

Critics of monetary union say that the process will involve too much deflation - reductions in government spending. They think that the Maastricht treaty is too much a central bankers' charter, and want other things taken into consideration. In particular, they want to see the EU take note of Real

Convergence. That means looking at economic growth and unemployment. EU literate critics talk about the need for greater Cohesion (which means ensuring the EU sticks together, and doesn't exclude poorer nations from a single currency) and a Social Dimension (which means keeping unemployment down). To boost these laudable ends, the EU has already got the Social Fund (money) and the Cohesion Fund (more money).

After monetary union, countries such as Germany are just as keen to maintain pressure on wayward countries to keep their economic haloes bright. They argue that it is very important to have Stability, which means keeping budget deficits low.

FREE MIELE MEDICAL FILTER

WORTH £25 RRP

On all new purchases of Miele 300* and 400 Series

Many vacuum cleaners release a high percentage of dust particles in their exhaust air. However, a Miele vacuum cleaner with S-Class Medical (HEPA) Filter will actually improve the quality of air in your home.

- Ideal for sufferers of asthma, eczema, rhinitis or other dust allergy
- Retains 99.98% of all particles down to 0.3 of a micron
- Carries the BAF seal of approval
- Used in clinical trials by Southampton General Hospital

allergy/friendly
British Allergy Foundation
COMPLIES WITH
BS5415
THE BRITISH STANDARD FOR
FILTRATION EFFICIENCY
MANDATORY IN HOSPITALS AND CLINICS

*Exception: Two Free Charcoal Filters on a Cat & Dog vacuum cleaner purchase

Promotions run from 1st September - 26th November 1996

**FREE FIVE YEAR
PARTS & LABOUR COVER
WORTH UP TO £120**

On all new purchases of Miele and Imperial domestic washing machines, tumble dryers, washer dryers, rotary ironers, dishwashers, refrigeration, microwave ovens and built-in cooking appliances.

See in-store for details.

Miele

Anything else is a compromise

For details of your nearest Miele Stockist please call 01235 554488

OR insure your home with us and we'll replace your locks if you lose your keys.

Interested? Call

0800 333 800

**EAGLE STAR
Direct**

If you lose your keys anywhere in the UK, Eagle Star will arrange for locks on external doors to be replaced, at no extra cost. Phone for a free home insurance quote weekdays 8am-8pm, Saturday 9am-2pm. We regret that we are unable to quote for rented unfurnished accommodation.

AUSTERITY EUROPE

Kohl hits jobless in move to save monetary union

IMRE KARACS
Bonn

The battle to save Europe's common currency moved to the floor of the German parliament yesterday, as Chancellor Helmut Kohl rallied his troops for one final attack on the government's bloated budget.

Rising above the cacophony of heckling opposition MPs and the distant rumble of trade unionists protesting outside, Mr Kohl warned that Germany had to submit itself to a painful cure, otherwise it would go out of business. "Dramatic changes in the world economy require change in an economy like Germany's," he said in the Bundestag debate on the 1997 budget.

Next year's performance will qualify or disqualify European Union member states for monetary union. But whatever other member states can do to manage their budgets, without Germany the scheme would have to be postponed beyond the scheduled launch date of 1999.

After busting the Maastricht treaty criteria for two successive years, Germany's budget deficit for 1997 hovers perilously close to the 3 per cent ceiling set by the treaty. In order to avert the calamity of accidentally scuppering EMU, Mr Kohl is trying to push through parliament a package of cuts amounting to some DM70bn (£31bn).

The proposed savings will hit pensions, sickness benefit and job-creation programmes, aggravating the plight of the 4 million people already on the dole. Mr Kohl, who had promised to halve the number of jobless by 2000, insisted yesterday that he had not abandoned his fight against mass unemployment. "This is unacceptable and remains central in our policy. But accelerating growth alone

is not sufficient and therefore we need our 50-point austerity package," the Chancellor said. But independent economists, the opposition and the trade unions have accused the government of ditching social concerns in a mad dash to meet the Maastricht criteria. The unions organised a wave of strikes early in the summer, and have pledged to carry the cause to the streets. At the weekend, a quarter of a million people marched in several German cities in protest against the programme.

The opposition Social Democrats are also trying to whip up the public with claims that the government was out to make the rich richer at the expense of the poor. "A government that wants to scrap wealth tax while postponing a rise in child benefit should be voted out of office," said Oskar Lafontaine, the Social Democrats' leader.

Mr Kohl's wafer-thin majority in the Bundestag will receive its severest test tomorrow, when the austerity package comes back from the opposition-dominated upper house, the Bundesrat. Several key elements have been rejected by the Bundesrat, and now Mr Kohl needs an absolute majority, which is by no means assured.

But if the programme clears that hurdle, there is little the unions or the opposition can do to thwart the Chancellor. Elections are not due until 1998, and, despite the country's dire economic plight, Mr Kohl's coalition parties maintain a narrow lead in the polls.

The public seemed resigned to a bout of austerity. "A large majority of our fellow citizens have recognised that changes are needed in order to secure the future," Mr Kohl said, citing a survey showing that 64 per cent of Germans agree that public expenditure savings are necessary.

Assuming that the government gets its programme through parliament, it is still by no means certain that Germany will qualify for monetary union. Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, has been forced to admit that the slimmed-down 1997 budget will have to be pruned a little more because of the soaring cost of unemployment.



Rough ride: Chancellor Helmut Kohl (left) and the Social Democrats' leader Oskar Lafontaine during the budget debate yesterday

One vision for the citizens of the 21st Century...

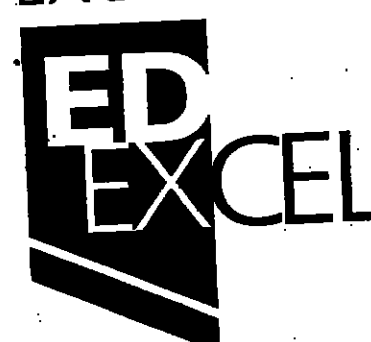


...one name

"The challenges of the next century bring the need for success into sharp focus," said Sir Ron Dearing in his recent report on secondary education.

Edexcel is the new Foundation created to meet the educational challenges of the next century. It is a fusion of BTEC, a leading provider of vocational and applied qualifications, and London Examinations, one of the major GCSE and GCE examining boards.

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



Edexcel is actively working to provide educational institutions with a single point of access for academic, vocational and applied qualifications.

For further information contact:

Edexcel Foundation,
Customer Enquiries Unit,
Stewart House, 32 Russell Square,
London WC1B 5DN
Tel: 0171 393 4444 Fax: 0171 413 8483
e-mail: enquiries@edexcel.org.uk



Edexcel - one name, one vision

Edexcel Foundation is a registered charity. London Examinations is a trade mark of the University of London.

Edexcel - promoting education & training

TI 12/9/96

Juppé battles to tighten belts and raise spirits

MARY DEJEVSKY
Paris

The French government faces two different and largely opposing demands in setting its 1997 budget. It has to convince international markets - and the Germans - that it can meet the single European currency criteria on time. To do this, it must make progress towards reducing the domestic deficit to 3 per cent of gross domestic product.

It also has to fend off rising discontent in disparate sectors that could, a majority of the French believe, cause a repetition of last winter's industrial unrest. To do this, the government has to plant a "feel good" - or at least a "feel better" - factor in public opinion.

This is why an "austerity" budget, that will reduce the domestic deficit, is needed next year. It is being aggressively presented by the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, and government officials as a budget that will lighten the tax burden and foster a rise in consumer spending sufficient to create jobs.

So far, only the most general outlines of the budget have been revealed, mainly relating to taxation. These were published last week when a succession of leaks forced Mr Juppé to publish details of what he called "a tax-cutting programme" a week before the budget was due to go before the Cabinet. The actual Bill, to include state spending and receipts, is expected to be presented to parliament next month.

The government's central principle seems to be to shift a proportion of state spending on to the individual in the form of indirect taxes and more finely tuned benefits, while at the

same time rationalising and gradually lightening the direct tax burden. Whether the combination will encourage consumer confidence to the point where jobs are created and the deficit cut, however, is another matter.

State spending will be pared through cuts in defence and a reform of health and social security. These will take effect from the 1997 budget. In the defence sector, thousands of jobs will be lost in defence-related industries and in the armed forces; in the health sector, there are to be caps on GPs' spending, a contract system for hospitals, and restrictions on the number of free consultations a patient may seek.

The taxation plans announced by the government last week include a reduction in the base rate, a rise in the threshold at which people start to pay tax, and a reduction in the top rate - all to take effect over the next five years. Against this, however, has to be set the phasing out of special tax concessions for particular professions and for certain popular investments, including new mortgages, life insurance policies and some types of savings. Taxes on alcohol and cigarettes will also be increased substantially.

Each day since the announcement of the reforms there have been leaks about other tax plans. Local taxes, for instance, are set to rise above the rate of inflation - in some areas by as much as 10 per cent - suggesting that some central government spending is being delegated to the regions under the guise of decentralisation. Women on maternity leave, pensioners and people on low incomes or state benefits may be required to make national insurance contributions.

Yesterday, another leak said that the government would toughen conditions for receiving state benefits, by assuming a means-tested sum that should be contributed by other family members. So, for instance, a young person out of work might find that working family members were required to contribute to his or her upkeep.



French shake up defence industry

MARY DEJEVSKY
Paris

The French government has announced a complete reorganisation of its defence research and procurement operation, designed to make French defence industries commercially competitive and facilitate co-operation within Europe.

The restructuring of the Délégation Générale pour l'Armement (DGA) was described by its recently appointed head, Jean-Yves Helmer, as the most far-reaching change since the DGA was formed.

Mr Helmer, formerly head of Peugeot-Citroën's car division, said yesterday that he wanted to bring the principles of civilian industry to France's defence sector, which has long been costed from competition.

He offered three main aims: to organise the defence industries so that they could compete on efficiency and quality in the international market; to prepare them to take their place in a European arms agency, which was announced as a French-German enterprise earlier this year but is expected to be joined soon by Italy and Britain; and to cut costs.

The naval shipyards group, DCN, announced annual losses of 700 francs for last year, far exceeding its annual turnover, and more than 6,000 jobs are to be lost this year.

Other traditional sectors of the defence sector are facing difficulties of a similar order. Yesterday more than 10,000 shipyard workers held a day of action to protest against planned cuts.

The change that the DGA is to undergo, as an institution, is akin to the "agency-isation" of Britain's defence procurement. The complex structures set out yesterday by Mr Helmer, and his pledge that - for the time being at least - no jobs would be lost and that everyone working for the DGA would have a place in the new structure, indicated the government's concern not to aggravate relations with public sector workers but also suggested that the cultural change might be slow to take root.

Teenage love that turned into a nightmare of betrayal, jealousy and violent death



David Graham and Diane Zamora (left) preparing for their military academies; and (right) their alleged victim, Adrienne Jones

Diane Zamora and David Graham were the stuff of American dreams - the best and brightest of the small-town Texas where they grew up. 18-year-old sweethearts who had just entered two of the country's most prestigious military academies. As soon as they had graduated they would marry, they announced. They had even set the date: 13 August 2000.

They will probably now spend that day in prison. Teenage love has turned into an American nightmare of betrayal, jealousy and violent death. The tale is so bizarre as to be scarcely believable. But if confessions they both have signed are true, Zamora and Graham face conviction for premeditated murder.

Their victim, according to police, was Adrienne Jones, a 16-year-old schoolmate of Graham and like him a member of the cross-country team. Last November the two had a brief fling. Exactly a month later, the body of Ms Jones was found by a lake at Grand Prairie, a suburb of Fort Worth. She had been beat-

en, and then shot twice with 9mm pistol.

In tight-knit and God-fearing suburban Texas the crime was a sensation, but a complete mystery. A young man at Mansfield, where Graham and Jones were at high school, was briefly arrested, but released for lack of evidence. As the months went by police lost hope, until last week the answer emerged more than 1,000 miles away.

Diane Zamora, now in her first term at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, took part in a tell-all session with her two room-mates, discussing the worst thing each had ever done. In her case, it gradually emerged, the answer was that she and her boyfriend had committed murder.

At first disbelieving, the room-mates none the less reported the episode to the Annapolis authorities. Scarcely less puzzled, the Academy in-

formed police departments around Fort Worth. The unsolved killing at Grand Prairie seemed to fit. Initially Zamora maintained she had made her story up, "to gain sympathy and attention", and in the absence of conclusive evidence she was sent home to Texas.

Then the police interrogated Graham, by now a first-year cadet at the no less blue-ribbed US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. At first he maintained the murder was a fiction, but after he failed a lie detector test, he confessed. He now awaits extradition from Colorado to Texas. His girlfriend is in jail, in lieu of a \$250,000 (£165,000) bond. And their crime, it is clear, is not one of headstrong teenage passion but of coldblooded, carefully plotted revenge.

According to Grand Prairie police, a remorseful, guilt-stricken Graham quickly told

Zamora of his tryst with Ms Jones. The fling, he said in his confession to police obtained by a Dallas newspaper, was an "unclean act" that soiled the "purity" of his long-standing relationship. And, Zamora is said to have insisted, the only way to expunge it was to remove every trace of it, "if you want to solve this problem, we have to make sure she doesn't exist".

And so they devised their plan. On the night of 3 December 1995, Graham arranged to meet Ms Jones and came to collect her at her home in a pick-up truck, in which his girlfriend was hiding. They drove to the deserted lake where the killing would take place. The original scheme was to sink Ms Jones' body in the lake.

But when Zamora climbed down from the back of the truck and attacked her with a barbell, Ms Jones escaped. Graham then pulled out a 9mm pis-

tol and shot her. The two accomplices left her body and fled. Police recovered the gun at Graham's parents' home.

With the evidence seemingly so clear cut, Graham's hometown of Mansfield, and Crowley where Zamora lived, are stunned. The couple's American-dream-come-true had faded in the local papers. He was, in the words of his lawyer Dan Cogdell, a "straight-A, pick-of-the-litter kid, who had never done anything wrong in his life". The reputation of Zamora, who appears to have been the driving force behind the crime, was scarcely less.

Graham's lawyer now says his client did not pull the trigger, and that his confession was coerced. Such are the manoeuvres in Texas murder cases, especially in Texas which seeks the death penalty more frequently than any state. But they will impinge upon the question at the heart of the case. How, for one fleeting indiscretion, could one life have been taken, and two others, so promising, been ruined?

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

United Nations approval of a treaty outlawing nuclear tests was hailed by John Major as "historic". The Prime Minister added that it was now vital to get India, in particular, to drop its opposition to the pact. Britain plans to sign the treaty on 24 September, the earliest possible day. The overwhelming adoption of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) on Tuesday could make an important contribution to preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and promoting international security, said Mr Major, but he added: "If the treaty is to be effective, it must command the full support of the whole international community." *Reuter - London*

Two Spanish fishermen were injured when a Portuguese naval patrol boat fired warning shots while chasing a Spanish trawler out of Portuguese waters, bringing a formal protest from Madrid. Portugal, accused by Spain of using excessive force, expressed regret over the incident, but said Spanish trawlers had frequently entered Portuguese waters to fish illegally. The response of the naval patrol boat was "standard practice". *Reuter - Lisbon*

Armed motorcyclists freed two Israeli prisoners in Cyprus while they were being taken to court in a police car on charges of handling forged bills. The accomplices, also Israelis, cut off the men's handcuffs with clippers and put the prisoners on the back of their motorcycles before fleeing through a UN checkpoint to the Turkish-held part of the island, where they surrendered. *Reuter - Nicosia*

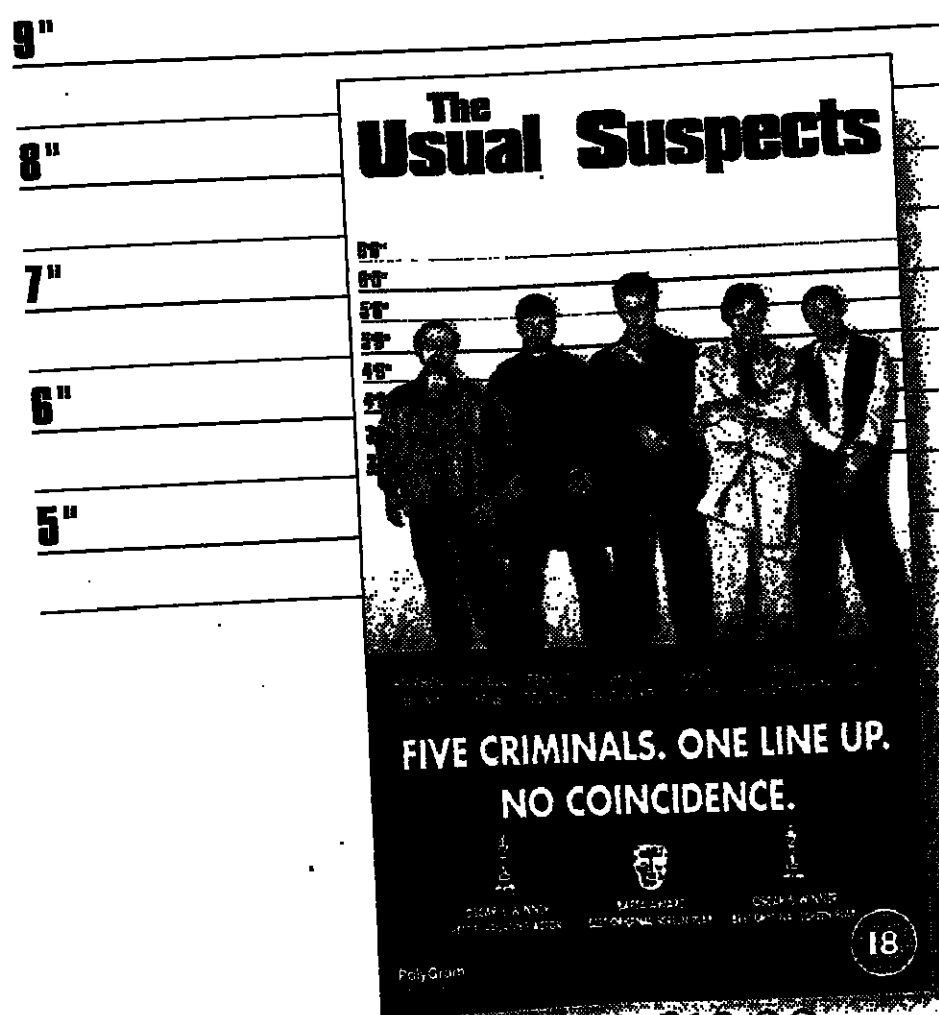
The soldier charged with bringing democracy to South Africa's post-apartheid army, Major General Marius Dolsch, acknowledged that he gave the order in 1992 to fire in the "Bisho massacre" of 29 black demonstrators. He told Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Commission that he had radioed an "open fire" order to field commanders near Bisho, capital of the now defunct Ciskei tribal homeland created under apartheid, when the soldiers were approached by ANC demonstrators. *Reuter - Bisho*

The biggest of some 80 weapons caches hidden by the United States in the 1950s as a precaution against a possible Soviet takeover of Austria has been uncovered. The cache, buried under a barn high in the Styrian mountains, included 125 grenades, more than 100 firearms and 30,000 rounds of ammunition. The existence of the secret depots was revealed in January by the Austrian ambassador, Swane Hunt, who handed the Austrian government a list of the sites and apologised for the delay in informing the host country. *AP - Graz*

Yitzhak Rabin's assassin has been found guilty, together with his brother and a third religious Jew, of conspiring to murder the Prime Minister, Army Radio said. Yigal Amir is already serving a life sentence for killing Rabin at a Tel Aviv peace rally last November. The killing Rabin in the separate conspiracy sentences of the Israeli court in the separate conspiracy case against Amir, his brother Hagai and Dror Adami, will be handed down at a later date. *Reuter - Tel Aviv*

A missile warhead exploded at a base in the Russian Far East last weekend because soldiers tried to break open the casing with a hammer in hopes of finding precious metals inside, *Izvestia* reported. All three died when the warhead of a S-125 Neva surface-to-air missile blew up. Some newer models of the warhead do have components containing gold and platinum, but not the older version the soldiers tried to open. *AP - Moscow*

The Usual Suspects.
Pick it out in Woolworths.



RRP £14.99 £12.99

WOOLWORTHS

OR talk to insurance people who treat you like an individual. Interested?

Call 0800 333 800

for a motor or home quote.



Phone for a free quote weekdays 8am-8pm, Saturday 9am-2pm. Motor insurance not available in Northern Ireland. We regret that we cannot quote for rented unfurnished accommodation.

ملا من الاصل

Bossi's Padania fails the tests of nationhood

So what if we have a Europe of 16 rather than 15 states; the 16th being the Republic of Padania, formerly Northern Italy? Who cares if the summer trip to Umbria crosses four borders rather than three?

Umberto Bossi, leader of the Northern League, has unilaterally decided to proclaim northern Italy independent. With a rival parliament, rallies and demonstrations, spoof banknotes, and even his own green-shirted militia, Mr Bossi is clearly having fun. And in principle there is nothing wrong with the Padania he envisages; an independent Northern Italy within Europe. After all, there is no point in being precious about existing West European borders; most of them have not been in place for very long. On the eastern end of the continent, the Czech and Slovak republics are evidence that it is possible to chop up old countries in a peaceful and sustainable manner. And countries comprising different attitudes and cultures may easily come to more or less separate living arrangements – we need only look at Belgium to see that.

If we apply that principle outside of Europe, an example this week comes readily to hand: for Hawaii to secede from the US (as some Hawaiians now want) might appear to tilt the balance of power in the Pacific, but in fact would create no serious problem. Nor would it threaten the United States federation. If Texas wanted to secede, or

California, or Florida, it would be a very different story.

Devolved self-determination should be preferred, so long as people really want it and it does not threaten stability. So if the Italian citizens would genuinely be happier apart, they should have it that way. The trouble is this happy scenario of two friendly bits of Italy. Bossi's Northern League, and the trouble it is stirring up, could be a problem for Europe as well as for Italy, if its cause is not swiftly diffused.

So does Padania pass the stability test? It does not look as if separate Italys would threaten the overall balance of power in the region as a whole. Both countries would stay in Nato as well as in the EU. Nor could a new Padania be accused of the kind of expansionary ambitions that have caused so much trouble with the new Croatia and Serbia. Although Bossi has never explained where the borders between north and south would lie (is Tuscany included, or cut in half?), he and his ilk want to escape the south, not conquer it. And there is little evidence that minorities in the region would be threatened or badly treated. The fears of English-speaking Quebecois for their rights under an independent French-speaking government have proved a significant obstacle to Quebec's secession from Canada. In Northern Italy there are few distinguishable minorities. Even the South Tyrolean problem, cause of



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE 071-293 2000 / 071-345 2000 FAX 071-293 2438 / 071-345 2435

long-running tensions with Austria over the plight of ethnic Germans, is no longer a burning issue.

But some potential for violence is emerging. Bossi's greenshirts are trained in the martial arts. Faced with the possibility that counter demonstrations could be organised by southerners, the greenshirt chief of staff was quick to threaten combat. Even more worrying, the Northern League is exhibiting fascist tendencies. Bossi's own rhetoric is aggressive, not least towards elements of the media he believes are not on his side.

But it is not so much Bossi who should

worry us: he is more of a joker than a devil. The real worry is that the creation of Padania would cause huge tensions within Italy. Imagine it: the rich, sophisticated north swans off with all the cash, enters the European fast stream with Germany and the Benelux countries, and leaves its southern sisters and brothers behind. Separation would not solve the problem, it would exacerbate it.

Were there an overwhelming demand for secession in the north, some accommodation would have to be found. Trampling on the demands of self-determination in the interests of stability and security may not be suc-

cessful in the long term. As Bosnia has testified, trying to keep a country together against its will can create as many problems as it avoids. The north, hard-working and prosperous, understandably resents the southern half of Italy. Despite decades of redistribution, the south remains poor and Mafia-ridden. Southern Italy will have to get its act together if it wants a united future.

But what of the other test? Do the people want it? For the moment, Padania fails this test too. The majority of northern Italians still do not want to leave their existing nation-state. Bossi is declaring independence on the basis of a free election in which he did not even receive a majority of the vote. His highest turnout in any region fell below 40 per cent. Where changing national identity is concerned, even simple majorities are tenuous. If Scotland voted in a referendum to become independent from England and Wales by 50.1 to 49.9 per cent, even the most committed separatists would feel queasy. Bossi cannot even claim to have achieved that. As such his behaviour plays irresponsibly with publicity-seeking fire.

For all the speculation and noise about new states emerging within a Greater Europe – Scotland, Belgium, Padania, Catalonia, the Basque country – the true popular demand for independence has actually been rather muted. Each of these regions wants substantial control over its own affairs, a

strong voice in its local union, and some freedom of cultural expression. Once these demands have been satisfied, separatist passions may ebb. In Spain, with its federalist structure, the Catalans are content for the time being to remain within the nation-state, and support for Basque separatism is declining.

People should be released from the trap of a nationhood they do not mainly accept. But, for all the old tensions still latent around Europe, even its most dissatisfied peoples would prefer gradual and limited devolution of autonomy to being suddenly and rudely torn asunder.

Worse than country music?

The idea that country and western music raises the suicide rate, as the psychologists informed us yesterday, stretches belief – though it's not so hard to accept that fast music makes us shop faster, or eat faster, because that's why the owners of supermarkets and wine bars inflict it on us. The academics would, however, have done more to alleviate suffering if they had inquired into those infuriating tunes that tinkle at you down the phone while you're waiting to be transferred. These could drive people to murder, never mind suicide.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Minimum pay and the effect on jobs

Sir: John Cridland of the Confederation of British Industry ("A blunt instrument that would fail to cure poverty", 9 September) assumes that the only important reason for introducing a minimum wage is to alleviate poverty. He goes on to play down the link between low pay and poverty, promote the CBI's preferred option of extending in-work means-tested benefits and claim that a minimum wage will cost jobs. He is wrong on all counts.

We need a minimum wage to encourage competition based on skill, quality and productivity, rather than wage under-cutting; to reduce staff turnover and improve incentives and morale; to support those whose bargaining position is weak; to encourage social cohesion and, yes, to combat poverty.

In recent years, changing demographic and employment trends have increased the number of wage-earning families that have fallen into poverty. As more and more jobs offer an income below benefit levels, there has also been a dramatic increase in the number of families without a wage-earner. Those that do enter the labour market find they face high marginal tax rates if reliant on in-work means-tested benefits.

Following Wages Councils' abolition, pay has fallen in many of the jobs that used to be covered by minimum wage protection. The taxpayer, rather than the employer, is now picking up the tab. Family Credit is becoming a subsidy to low-paying employers. The yearly cost of means-tested in-work benefits is already around £3.5bn.

Finally, there is no real empirical evidence to suggest that minimum wages destroy jobs, though some studies have stated that "high" minimum rates may have a negative impact. Studies in Britain and the United States have found a positive relationship between minimum wages and employment. The key factor is the level of the minimum wage.

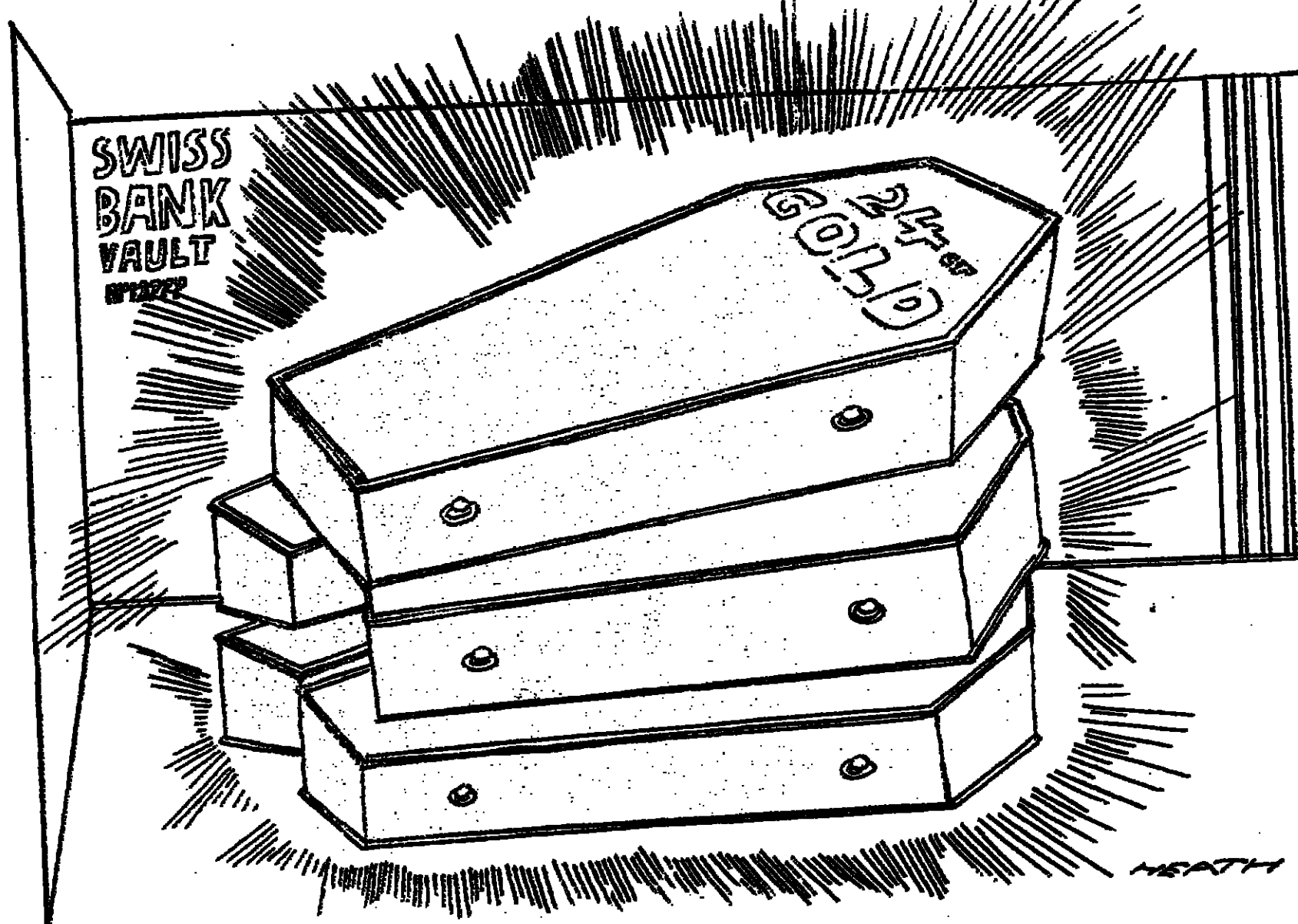
JONATHAN FRY
Yorkshire & Humberside
Low Pay Unit
Bailey,
West Yorkshire

Sir: The politicians and journalists who oppose the minimum wage have one crucial thing in common: they are all on extremely good wages. They simply cannot imagine the financial, physical, emotional and psychological impoverishment of working for anything under £4 per hour.

Have they thought that the imposition of a minimum wage might raise the general level of health, cut crime, and might actually be morally right? To promise every citizen of this country the protection of the law, so that they are not exploited by ruthless employers, should not be a subject of debate, but an aim which inspires national pride.

DAVID JAMES
Bedford

Sir: Hamish McRae is right to suggest ("Small business is Labour's business", 6 September) that Labour should pay more attention to small and medium-size businesses (SMEs), correctly identifying them as the job and wealth creators of the future. If it does so, it will find that this sector has a clear view about what is needed to maintain an environment in which businesses



can flourish. Low inflation and economic stability are vital and Labour's commitment to these should be welcomed. Similarly, it is encouraging that the stifling effect of superfluous and often over-zealously enforced regulation has been recognised.

However, a genuinely flexible labour market is also vital for Britain's future prosperity, so there is still much concern at the prospect of a national minimum wage and the possibility that a future Labour government would adopt the Social Chapter. Both of these measures would have the effect of destroying jobs and reducing British firms' competitiveness across the board, but it is the smaller business which would suffer most.

TIM MELVILLE-ROSS
Director-General
Institute of Directors
London SW1

Abortion choice

Sir: I was saddened to see so many socialists had signed the letter from the National Abortion Campaign (7 September) because abortion on demand so often becomes abortion under pressure for the poor, especially if they are unmarried. In countries as diverse as China and the USA certain types of women have very little "right to choose".

Already in this country a woman needs considerable courage to refuse tests which could show she is carrying a handicapped child. The whole philosophy of getting rid of the unwanted, the handicapped and the illegitimate is more fascist than socialist.

Dr MARGARET WHITE JP
Croydon, Surrey

Moment of truth for New Man

Sir: I don't know where Adrienne Burgess gets her evidence about working fathers from (Letters, 9 September).

In my experience, New Man is transformed into an ambitious workaholic just as soon as he discovers how frustrating, noisy and exhausting two or more children can be.

I would gladly share my "power" in the home with my husband but he prefers to exercise his authority in the workplace, where he has more chance of being heard.

C WIKLEY
Romsey, Hampshire

Let Palestinians share Nazi gold

Sir: I wonder if those Jewish victims of Nazism currently seeking their portion of the Nazi gold ("Risking to reveal \$7bn Nazi gold theft", 10 September) would consider sharing it with those other forgotten victims of Nazism. I mean the 700,000 Palestinians (and their many more descendants, of whom I am one) who were dispossessed in 1948 to make way for the creation of a Jewish refuge in their country, and who consequently became, so to speak, the victims of the victims.

No compensation has ever been paid to the Palestinians for the loss of their land, property and livelihood. Perhaps in this era of "peace" we can look to a new spirit

of generosity towards Palestinians from those many Jews who have never been slow (quite rightly) to vociferously demand reparations for their own losses and suffering.

Dr GHADA KARMI
London NW11

Etiquette of fax machines

Sir: I wonder whether the new edition of *Debrett* will resolve a burning issue of the day – what is the correct procedure when a fax addressed to someone else comes through one's fax machine, sometimes using up several sheets of paper?

This has happened to me twice and on the first occasion I faxed the sender. On the second occasion I telephoned, and was left hanging on for several minutes before being asked to destroy the fax.

On neither occasion did anyone see fit to thank me for my efforts and I feel disinclined to bother in future.

AGNES SPIER
Sheffield,
South Yorkshire

Too much, Alix

Sir: Please, please, never again print that grotesque picture of Alix Sharkey capering in a PVC cat-suit (Section Two, 6 September). It has taken me all weekend to recover from the shock.

MOLLY GILLIGAN
London W6

Sex mix-up in Scottish waters

Sir: Dr Gerry Best of the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency is reported as being unaware of any feminised fish in Scotland ("Sex-change waste found off beaches", 11 September).

A 1991 report found that 93 per cent of a population of shrimp-like copepods living near a sewage outlet in the Firth of Forth were intersex "hermaphrodites" – the highest frequency ever recorded for any crustacean population anywhere. Intersex in these creatures is normally extremely rare. Chemical pollution by hormone disruptors must be a major suspect in this Scottish area.

RAY DAWKINS
Boughton Monchelsea,
Kent

Internet ban misguided

Sir: We believe the recent attempt by the Metropolitan Police to ban certain news groups on the Internet is wholly misguided. We disagree with censorship in principle, and object to the attempt to ban all discussion of sexual matters just because there is some pornography.

Internet news groups are a system of classification created by the voluntary co-operation of the people who post to them. If some are banned by the Met the material in them will simply flow into other

areas, where it will be read by people who do not want to see it. It is wrong to criminalise Internet service providers for carrying data that they could not possibly be expected to inspect. Internet news groups carry about 500 times as much information as the works of Shakespeare every day. We will be happy to discuss means of enforcing the law that do not involve criminalising the innocent or censoring *Lady Chatterley's Lover* once again.

ALISTER BULMAN
and 132 other signatories
Campaign Against Censorship on the Internet in Britain
E-mail: cacib@vision.co.uk

Babies on trains

Sir: It does not surprise anybody nowadays that smokers are placed in a different carriage when travelling by train. Why can't we do the same with parents travelling with children?

As someone who dislikes babies, crying, the smell of nappies, the rhythmic banging of feet against seats and the stupidity of grown-ups talking like silly babies, I had trips to Spain and France ruined this summer. Please give them their own carriage, or throw them in with the smokers: both are damaging to health.

MIGUEL VARANA
London NW5

A nose for eyes

Sir: When I see two lunatic eyes staring from a handbag, the first politician I think of is not Tony Blair.

STEPHEN BUTTERWORTH
Staplehurst, Kent

Churches failing on science front

Sir: I must confess to feeling rather smug on reading Andrew Brown's interesting article "Science, the new religion?" (10 September), for I have all the popular science writers he mentions – and more – on my shelf.

What these writers provide is a world of intriguing fact, as in evolutionary biology, and challenging mystery, as in quantum science, which leaves dogmatic theology looking rather like fossils in a sterile world.

If people are looking to science rather than the churches for ultimate answers, I feel the churches have largely themselves to blame; for while clerics seem at home endlessly bickering over the aftermath of the Reformation, they seem hardly to have noticed anything that comes after the Enlightenment.

This would seem to be borne out by reflection on the three great intellectual systems which, according to Braudel's *History of Civilization*, have shaped our world. The system of Aristotle the Church sought to accommodate (Aquinas); the second system of Descartes and Galileo the Church sought either to suppress or rebuff with neo-scholasticism; while the third system of Einstein it has not even attempted to understand (the new catechism of the Catholic Church accords two short paragraphs to science, while even angels get nine).

It is understandable that most people now think the Church and science have nothing in common: what is more damning is that for many the Christian faith has become incomprehensible in the light of modern knowledge.

Fr DOMINIC KIRKHAM
Corpus Christi Priory,
Manchester

Radio 3 in safe hands after all

Sir: Marianne Macdonald states ("Why we should all pay to keep Radio 3 élitte", 11 September) that I believe Nicholas Kenyon to be a "Gerald Ratner of the airwaves". This is presumably on the basis of a letter which I wrote in 1991, querying his first publicised plans for Radio 3.

He answered my letter convincingly, and time has proved him right. The channel is in safe hands as it celebrates its 50th birthday this month. And so are the Proms, as Kenyon's first season ending this week has triumphantly demonstrated.

BAMBER GASCOIGNE
Richmond,
Surrey

Jingo-free Prom

Sir: Several thousand schoolchildren were recently treated to a Junior Prom in the Royal Albert Hall, given by the BBC Concert Orchestra. The concert concluded with Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance March no 1*, sung to words written by nine-year-old Jacob Lloyd, which concluded: "Louder still and louder, you shall hear us shout, Till there's peace in Europe, And the world throughout."

I felt more comfortable singing this than the outdated jingoistic version we sing at the Last Night of the Proms.

DAVID WILLIAMS
Bromham,
Bedfordshire

Sir Alastair Dunnett is one of the most senior figures of the post-war Scottish establishment. He was editor of 'The Scotsman' from 1956-1972. A staunch devolutionist from the 1960s onwards, here he recants, declaring for full-blown Scottish independence



Let's say goodbye to Britain

If, as seems likely, John Major will shortly set out on his pre-election pilgrimage into the English constituencies, he will no doubt declare his loyalty to the United Kingdom, and the disasters that would follow if its concept were ever to be abandoned. He will preach abiding loyalty to this fallacy, but of course it is not a United Kingdom. It is a disunited kingdom, and it is falling apart with every month that passes.

I used to believe in Britain; in a United Kingdom that is a united kingdom. This is very far from being what we have now. It's "Anglo-this, Anglo-that" all the way. Nobody but the Scots ever uses the word British. If you ever hear anyone else talk of Britain he is either a politician who has to watch out for the votes, or a businessman who has to mollify the workers in his Scottish branch factory. Or he is a Scot, for we use the word doggedly in the belief that our neighbours will catch on. We are the only ones who are trying to make the British idea work. No Englishman in

his right mind ever refers to Britain when the word England will do, and the average Englishman thinks that somewhere along the line in his nation's long and not ignoble history they took over Scotland as some sort of subject province.

In a way this is what it has turned out to be. The Act of Union is nearly 300 years old. It was a masterpiece of bribery and corruption. It was intended to set up a joint parliament of England and Scotland, but in no time at all it had become an incorporating union, with Westminster continuing as the English Parliament plus a proportion of elected Scots representatives who didn't get very far unless they appeared to endorse specifically, and implicitly, the centralising theories that held that body together. The name of Scotland has also largely disappeared. This is an inexplicable thing to have happened to a country that was a nation longer than most; that was the basis of our present monarchy, where there were first spoken in all history words about freedom, democracy,

independence, equality, the rights of people, and the dignity of Man made in the image of God and other matters of interest and importance to the human race; which is a founder member of Great Britain and a mother country of the Commonwealth; and which in its time has made, out of all proportion to its size and population, significant contributions to all the sciences, all the arts, all the philosophies, most of the sports, many of the innovations, and even a few of the decencies. Despite this, outside of Scotland and in the rest of the world, there is no Britain whatsoever.

"I am quite unable to account for this," Neil Gunn, our writer, once said. "I know that it exists as part of that age-long, and now nearly successful, drive to annihilate all vestiges of the Celt. Any effort on the part of any section - such as Ireland or Wales or Scotland - of the Celtic fringe to form itself into a nation is not merely opposed but bitterly resented, as if it were something in the nature of a betrayal of human progress."

This is the stage of thought that has now been reached by many Scots, it seems. This is what we have to come to. Dr Samuel Johnson, no great friend of the Scots, on his tour of the Hebrides had seen this danger and told one of the MacDonald chiefs: "Your sons will be tamed into insignificance by an English education."

In explanation of Samuel Johnson it has to be said that he came armed with his intellectual apparatus to denigrate and denounce any aspects of independent Scottish culture and styles. After all, he came from the metropolis of London still trembling with the terror they had lately endured when the men of the '45 Rising had nearly marched in on them and taken over.

As I travel around the world I hear no ready animosity expressed about Scotland in any of the countries of Europe, nor elsewhere. Nothing in the long sacrifice of our pioneering generations seems to have stored up ill will or given us the name of unreliable or dishonest. And it may well be that with all these Scots already in place about the world we could establish a fifth column of goodwill here at home to carry the flag, and give a new meaning to the name of the Commonwealth.

I have to assert the idea that on sheer grounds of efficiency something of this sort must be attempted soon. Britain is a badly run place, needing the decks cleared, and as I have said almost any system would be better than the one we have now. It has to be recognised that sentiments like this are popularly described, and dis-

missed, as nationalism. I occasionally meet a Scot who will tell me that nationalism is dangerous, leading to wars and strife and the deterioration of good relations between people, while he is himself an internationalist. When a man like that tells me he is an internationalist, I know he is searching for an excuse for having done nothing for Scotland. These internationalists might do well to have a close look at the international situation that exists on their own border. Almost the

with them in a kindly way. If there is any luck going they have it. They have put about the notion that they are the masters of compromise. But if anything ever comes up that they have decided is their right, they will not yield. One of the great attitudes of mind, which has prevented Scotland for 1,000 years from being utterly engulfed by their flood is this: that the Scots are the only people in the world who have never underrated the English. In any proper system of government in

ported by *The Scotsman*, which pushed hard for a European presence in the EEC, campaigning to have Britain in at the time the Treaty of Rome was being written. When Britain eventually decided to join, they thought the rules should be changed to accommodate them, although the thing was already a going concern. Heath also, in discussion with some of us, formulated the ideal of a separate legislative and parliamentary assembly for Scotland which his party adopted and then mutilated. Edward Heath seems to have sulked out of British politics, but his considerable contribution as our only major constitutional reformer of the 20th century is still to be assessed.

My paper, *The Scotsman*, was the first to promote devolution - which all Scottish papers have since taken up. We urged that we should go into Europe at the time of the Treaty of Rome, and help to shape it. Instead, the UK backed away and when, at last, the British wanted in, they wanted the rules altered to suit them, whereas the thing was by this time a going concern. And the Tories are still at it, trying for late changes. For myself I have now gone far beyond the modest devolution case, and am for independence or nothing.

For the present, we want clear of England. The English have stirred up animosity for themselves everywhere. They have offended and oppressed most of the countries of the world and especially those of Europe. Their enemies are now closing in. The Spanish fishing menace is one of the most recent; the beef threat is

another. Germany and France are both out to clobber them. Even Ireland, whose memories go back far beyond Cromwell to the more recent Black and Tans. Bruton and company will turn and show their teeth one day soon. The sooner we get away from them and into independence the better.

We should be agreeing, as is repeatedly said at the dispatch box and elsewhere, that the economy is growing, the unemployment figures are coming down, the export trade is increasing, the inflation figures are being held, and all the rest. The preposterous aspect is that the Tories take all the credit for these achievements. The opposite is the case. They are all the triumphant results of increasing efforts by modest entrepreneurs, in spite of higher taxes, VAT, and the quangos the Government has lumbered them with.

The path to independence is straight ahead. With a likely Labour government in office after the general election, some sort of parliament or assembly should be soon in place. This is only the first step on the road to the break-up of the United Kingdom. That is the intention. It will break up, and high time too. There will be opposition squeals and lamentations that Scotland in independence will find disaster and bankruptcy. This has long since been repudiated. Eminent accountants, academics, and economics realists, of whom we have more than our fair share, have proved that, far from being a subsidised nation within the UK, Scotland more than pays her way.

It is a tribute to the resilience of the Scottish economy that - after 16 years of Tory destruction, and even with the effect of discretionary public expenditure, such as defence and other unidentified spending, in favour of the south of England - Scotland is still able to generate a budget surplus relative to the UK as a whole.

Independent Scotland will be welcomed among the small nations of Europe, many of them recently created and all of them prosperous. The Republic of Ireland is booming, and is able by its taxation attractions to bring foreign investment in to the country. They have two score or more of foreign embassies in Dublin, so enhancing its capital status.

In our case the Treaty of Union of 1707 will have long since been laid aside. But there will no doubt be a sentiment that a diplomatic arrangement with our large neighbour might be a good idea, although on equal terms this time. There might even be justification for the setting up of a partnership to share convenient services and facilities. In the past we have been dragged in to imperial adventures without having any sort of say in the decision-making. This role is at an end. We shall go in to whatever it is on Scottish terms, and strictly for the convenience of Scotland and her people. Once England and Westminster have grasped that they are no longer our bosses, much good might come of such an arrangement.



The author with Harold Wilson and, top, at home

only Scottish problem is England.

The English are truly a remarkable people. They are the supreme nationalists and their nationalism is of the most dangerous character because they do not come to it by any intellectual nor patriotic conclusion. It is already there, instinctively, in their bloodstream. Everything that is English is right and anything else is a foreign aberration, one of God's blunders, to be treated with amused tolerance or implacable hostility. Fate deals

Mention Tony Blair and he will appear



Miles Kington

It's time to ask the big question again. Where are they now? Yes, it's time for another look at people and things who were once all over the headlines and have since totally vanished from our consciousness. People such as Graham Taylor and Terry Christian.

Things like the Irish peace process and, um, lots of other things I can't remember.

Here we go then, as we look back through the yellowing cuttings of

yesteryear to look at what has happened to:

Salman Rushdie
Salman has, for obvious reasons, spent a lot of time in the company of policemen in the last few years. He has become very impressed with their fortitude and patience, and, often, skill, and the more familiar he has become with police work, the more interested he has become in it. Finally, nine months ago, he took the plunge and actually joined the police. Normally they do not take people who are under threat of death, but it seemed that Rushdie would be ideal for undercover and plainclothes operations, as he would be more likely to preserve his cover than most people.

Punch
The first "new" issue of the "new" *Punch* magazine came out a few days ago. Since then, nothing. Nobody has been talking about it. Nobody has said anything about it. What has happened? Has it gone into dentists' waiting rooms all over the country and carried on as before?

Not quite. What has happened is that people all over the country are waiting for the second issue to come out so that they can buy it, have a look through it and say, "Humm - not as good as it used to be!"

Robert Runcie
Runcie is praying for the strength to forgive Humphrey Carpenter.

Humphrey Carpenter
Humphrey is getting used to the same joke being told by everyone. Carpenter, you see, has just written another book called *The Envy of the World*, which is a history of the first 50 years of the Third Programme (and Radio 3), and people keep saying to him, "This book *The Envy of the World*, is

that all about what Robert Runcie suffers from, then?" or words to that effect. Carpenter does not laugh, mainly because it is not a funny joke, but it is driving him up the wall.

Lord St John of Fawley
Lord St John of Fawley (the former Miss Norma St John Stevas) has been trapped inside his house for several weeks now by a huge crowd of paparazzi, all shouting through his letter box and saying things like, "Would you call yourself the Sir Walter Bagehot de nos jours?" "So do you think a future Queen Camilla is on the cards, then, Norm?" "Are you the git who inflicted the dreadful gate in Hyde Park on us, you tasteless berk?" and, "Show us a flash of ankle for the *Sunday Sport*, darling!"

Linford Christie
Linford is at a sports meeting somewhere in Denmark which ended three weeks ago. He was given two false starts and refused to leave the track. He is still on it. He is getting very thin and cold.

Princess Diana
Diana is waiting to see if the Royal Family can possibly survive without her.

Ross Perot
Ross is betting enormous sums of money on himself to lose the next US presidential election. Although the odds are not good, he can't lose. If he loses the election, he collects. If he wins, he won't need to collect.

Tony Blair
Tony is pondering on the significance of the fact that "Tony Blair MP" is an anagram of "I am Tory - Plan B!"

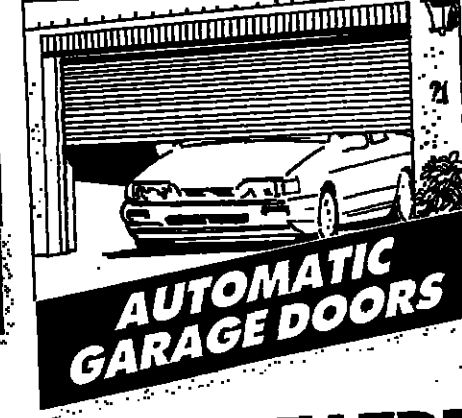
The Irish Peace Process
There is no such thing as the Irish peace process. There never was. John Major was simply trying to apply marketing techniques to Ireland as he has done to the Labour Party. He thought that if you called Blair a devilish danger, he would become one, and he thought that if you said there was a peace process in Ireland, there would be one. None of them has come true yet.

NATIONWIDE FOR SECURITY AND CONVENIENCE

We still advertise today because we did a good job yesterday



SECURITY BLINDS



AUTOMATIC GARAGE DOORS

- Tailor-made security blinds and garage doors.
- Maintenance free.
- Choice of colours to suit your property.

RING US NOW ON 01929 554901
OR RETURN THIS COUPON TODAY

Yes! Please send me my full colour brochure
NO STAMP REQUIRED

NAME (MR/MRS/MISS) _____
TELEPHONE NO _____
ADDRESS _____
POSTCODE _____

Send to Nationwide • Freepost • Wareham • Dorset • BH20 4BR



I wouldn't recommend anyone else
John Stalker

Hugh Gaitskell without the dancing?

The night after he was appointed Labour Chancellor in 1950, Hugh Gaitskell, in New York on a ministerial visit, celebrated by going to a Greenwich Village jazz club and dancing until 4.30 in the morning. How times change. It is difficult to imagine Tony Blair, or for that matter any modern British politician, with the possible exception of Kenneth Clarke (for the jazz rather than the dancing), doing anything much like that in their mid-forties.

Gaitskell's lifelong passion for dancing in nightclubs, like his unconventional streak and his affair with the socialite Ann Fleming, wife of the creator of James Bond, is a reminder that there were sharp differences, as well as similarities between Gaitskell and Blair. It is curious, as Brian Brivati points out at the end of his dazzling new biography of Gaitskell, that he isn't even mentioned in the blueprint written by Peter Mandelson and Roger Liddle for the first term of a Labour government. After all, it was Gaitskell and his legacy that kept alive the possibility of Labour's eventual emergence as a party of the modern social democratic left. Could it be that in the only election Gaitskell fought, he, too, promised not to raise taxes and went on to suffer a severe defeat? Or could it be that Mandelson has subconsciously never forgiven Gaitskell for wresting the leadership away from his grandfather Herbert Morrison after Attlee stood down in December 1955? After all, was Gaitskell not the first moderniser? Didn't he sue friends and enemies alike by trying to replace Clause IV of the party constitution? Wasn't he also a public-school and Oxford-educated son of a Tory who nevertheless had a close and formative relationship with his Northern working class constituency? Did he not draw some of the same sharp lessons from the 1959 election defeat that Blair did from that of 1992? Is there not an overwhelming sense that Tony Blair has picked up where Gaitskell was forced - by his death at only 57 - to leave off? And does the endorsement of Tony Blair by Roy Jenkins, social democrat and living disciple of Gaitskell, not mark the final completion of a circle?

Well, yes and no. History is not quite as neat as that, as Brivati knows. Indeed, it's one of his strengths that unlike his predecessor Philip Williams, who nevertheless also wrote a fine book about Gaitskell a generation ago, he is young enough to be uninfected by the internal party struggles over the bomb and Clause IV in the 1960s. He wasn't even born when some of us, in a shamefully poisonous parody of a civil rights anthem, used to sing on Aldermaston marches: "Gaitskell is our leader/He must be removed/Just like the scum that's floating on the water/He must be re-moved." And he isn't misty-eyed enough about either of the two leaders to assume that if Gaitskell had lived to be elected prime minister in 1964 - which he surely



Donald Macintyre

Tony Blair owes much to Labour's first moderniser. Would that he owed more

would have been - he would have simply been proto-Blair. Both those views - the abuse he received from the infantile left after standing up to unilateralism in his spine-tingling "Fight, fight and fight again" speech at Scarborough in 1960 and the idea that he was Blair before his time - ignore something important about Gaitskell: not how right-wing, but how left-wing he was. On this analysis, Mandelson's omission has nothing to do with grandfilarial piety, everything to do the fact that Gaitskell was a collectivist, a Keynesian believer in economic planning rather than markets, and committed above all to the seemingly un-Blair-like concept of Equality. Which is one reason why some unreconstructed Gaitskellites - such as Roy Hattersley - get so cross with Blair.

As it happens, Blair did use the E-word in a recent article in the *Independent on Sunday* in July, saying that he wanted to see more of it. But, broadly, this analysis must be right. How could it be otherwise? The post-war consensus was still firmly in place. The industrial and social changes - including the manufacturing shake-out which laid waste Labour's unionised heartlands, were not even predictable, let alone visible. Gaitskell led the party in times shaped by the Attlee government; Blair leads it in one equally shaped by Margaret Thatcher's. To do so he has had to rock back much more of Labour's history than merely that of the Seventies and Eighties.

So part of the difference is to do with the times and not the men. It's futile to play time travel with political history; but Gaitskell might have looked more like Blair had he lived to be Prime Minister. It's true that he was a Euro-sceptic - indeed, it was his opposition to the terms of the Macmillan EEC application which reunited him with many of his old enemies on the left of the party. But he would surely not have let his own followers undermine Barbara Castle's heroic attempt to reform the unions in 1968-9.

But there were also differences which were to do with personality and not environment. Gaitskell's politics were humanist and libertarian where Blair's are Christian and more socially conservative. Gaitskell shocked his mother by marrying the divorced Dora Frost and was as consistent a liberal on divorce as he was an opponent of immigration controls.

And there's one other trait, one of the most attractive, which has not, at least not yet, emerged in Blair and that was Gaitskell's electrifying passion. Blair is one of those madly rational politicians of a kind which Gaitskell kept saying he was but wasn't. It may be that this is appropriate to the minimalist and politically unemotional present day. But you cannot help mourning the romantic streak in Gaitskell's make-up - and wishing you could see occasional flashes of it once again.

Fame allows West's madness to live on

by Jack O'Sullivan

Do we need another book about Frederick West? Don't we know enough about this obscene, degrading, disgusting and murderous man without being served up yet another biography, an account which conceals little for the weak-hearted; a book whose detail will keep paedophiles and perverts salivating for weeks?

That is the question surrounding *An Evil Love*, Geoffrey Wansell's biography of Frederick West. It is the latest such book and follows copious reporting of Rosemary West's trial and conviction for 10 murders including the killing of her daughter and stepdaughter. For such a book still to be worthwhile, this writer - a well-regarded but undistinguished biographer of Cary Grant, Sir James Goldsmith and Terence Rattigan - would have to tell us something very special.

There is another doubt about the Wansell book. It has been commissioned by the State - by the Official Solicitor - expressly to raise money for West's children. In short, the details of this horror story have been sold for profit by an arm of the law; the very institution that put the serial killer behind bars.

Such a bizarre arrangement puts it into a different category to accounts of criminal's lives. Howard Marks, the drug smuggler, has just published his autobiography but his consequent profit from crime has not provoked outcry. Likewise, *Inside 25 Cromwell St.*, written by West's children, Stephen and Mae, did not prompt debate about the fate of the proceeds. But the role of the Official Solicitor in Wansell's book - providing access to West's own 100-page "autobiography" - leaves a nasty taste. Consideration for the relatives of his victims requires that we are offered more than a state-sponsored freak show.

However, to be fair, Wansell's book has its virtues. It delivers a well-documented account of how this mass killer was created: a grim, unglamorous read. An admittedly secretive person himself, Wansell relentlessly pursues the truth through the haze of West's many deceptions.

It is the story of a young Frederick West, sexually initiated and beaten by his mother in a family where incest was accepted practice. From there he roamed, wooing, cajoling and coercing hundreds of women into fulfilling his fantasies. He could charm the

authorities with his inoffensiveness: before his jail suicide, even his prison officers were photographed joking with him. Good old Fred, what a laugh.

There was nothing - including murder - that West could not get away with. And he encountered two key women,

ing tawd through the horrors of West's life. More importantly, the book disappoints by not looking beyond a fascination with the story's central characters. It fails to locate the thread that links Fred and Rosemary, their fantasies and their actions, to people like you and me.

But how many men have shared at least some of the fantasies acted out by Fred West? None? Look at what is sold on the top shelves of newsagents. Go into a city telephone box and see the adverts for bondage, sado-masochism and sexual violence. "Mistress awaits you in her dungeon," is just one calling card spotted this week, an apt, if ironic, description of Rose West's activities in the Cromwell Street cellar.

These messages sell. They resonate in our society. So, although we are horrified at

Some of us will read this book and privately, shamefully, marvel at Fred West's tenacity

The Wests remain monsters, outsiders, not a challenge to our own personal thinking. At most, their ordinariness alerts us to the possibility that child abusers may be found in the most mundane and apparently normal situations. But we have yet to be challenged in this whole affair about what we, personally, share with them.

Some people will be offended at the notion that they might be associated with this vicious, revolting pair. I do not, however, say that a poten-

Wansell said this with the self-knowledge that comes from 12 years of Jungian analysis. But he doesn't say it in his book. To do so might, perhaps, have been too painful and awkward and have resulted in him being called a deviant rather than simply another opportunist making a mint out of what will be a best-seller.

what Fred West did, we have to ask whether his dark side is really so foreign to our own; a horrible corner of our minds which we dare not explore? Still more disconcerting is the extent to which some of us will read this book and privately, shamefully, marvel at Fred West's tenacity, his capacity to deceive, his persistent ability to attract and control women. Who, indeed, will find some of the story sexually stimulating?

Geoffrey Wansell has danced with this particular devil. For months, he has allowed Frederick West into his mind. When I spoke to him this week, he said: "There is an element of male sexuality which I came to understand as a result of this book, which is in a sense a West version, which wishes to take revenge of women, to abuse women, wishes to use women as vehicles for emotion. That is the uncomfortable conclusion you can't escape."

But he, and other writers, have avoided that conclusion in their published work. It is not difficult to see why. This is scary territory in which a honest man can easily be misrepresented as a sick pervert. Better to leave it alone; better to stick to the theory that there are monsters out there with whom we have nothing in common.

For a biographer trying to keep some distance from his horrific subject, it is particularly tempting to avoid the personal implications of what he finds. "You have to keep West compartmentalised," Wansell told me. "If you don't the dangers are so terrible. You are in danger of exploding in every direction. But the task of keeping him compartmentalised is so difficult because there is something in West which encapsulates male fantasy. Perhaps what he reveals is that there is a final compartment within all of us and, certainly within me, that is never revealed."

Wansell said this with the self-knowledge that comes from 12 years of Jungian analysis. But he doesn't say it in his book. To do so might, perhaps, have been too painful and awkward and have resulted in him being called a deviant rather than simply another opportunist making a mint out of what will be a best-seller.

But until people like Wansell face the challenge, their books will remain no more than a warning about a darkness out there and a voyeuristic experience for readers. We don't need any more of these books. We need a courageous book that will explore the darkness within.



Rosemary West, Fred West and the biographer Geoffrey Wansell



Is this fame at last, in the shadowy figure of Ivo Plunge?

john walsh

Brrring brrring. It is Roger from *The Guardian* asking if I could offer a few thoughts about Amanda Craig. Then *The Telegraph* is on the line asking if I mind "appearing" in *A Vicious Circle*, the new novel by Amanda Craig. Next comes Danya, an exotic young woman from *The Times*, asking, Is it true, that stuff in *Private Eye* about you being in Amanda Craig's...? Soon, Post-it notes cover my desk like sticky snowflakes. "D. Mirror rang. P's call." "Chap from D. Mail re A. Craig."

Fame and obscurity, I'm being harassed because of a tawdry resemblance to a character called Ivo Plunge in a roman à clef by a woman who told me, some years ago, "I'll get my own back on you" for publishing an iffy review of her last novel. Gosh. One digs out a proof copy of the book and reads it. Though flagged as a withering satire on the corrupt literary, it appears to be only intermittently concerned with the reviewing tendency, its bookish chapters interspersed with lots of hand-wringing about one-parent families, inner cities, the NHS, and the horrid things you find on your stairs ("needles, condoms, bubble gum").

One notes some rather obvious references: the Slouch Club, Merlin Swagg the broadcaster, Ben Gorgie "the portly Canadian editor of the *Chronicle* (Sunday Telegraph)", Percy Flagg the blond poet, novelist, biographer and commissioning editor (Andrew Motion - do catch up). And shamefully, one looks for oneself in the pages about Ivo, cursing the fact that novels don't carry indexes. One remarks the fact that Ivo has curly hair (he too), that he's a lapsed Catholic, ex-grammar school boy (ditto),

former gossip writer turned literary editor (yup) whose father was a doctor (check). One notes with interest that "his friends compared him to Oscar Wilde, largely because of his dress..." [and] "his enemies called him the most dangerous man in London". He is also "famously unsuccessful" with women, whom he routinely and charmingly assaults with something called the "Sponge lunge".

Hmmm. One picks and chooses through all this exciting data, applying whatever shreds of self-knowledge one can summon, and one finally says: Oh blast, it's not enough me. That's the trouble with *romans à clef*: if you're going to appear in them at all, it has to be as a primary-colour member of the cast, rather than a now-you-see-me-now-you-don't-wraith. Makes you feel so... insubstantial.

But what people in literary-gossip circles are asking is: what on earth did Mr Sexton do to Amanda Craig back in

undergraduate days, that she should wreak this weirdly elaborate revenge 15 years later? Did he two-time her with another? (But that's what everyone does at university). Did he break her heart? (But Ms Craig radiates self-assurance and has been happily married for years). I think we have to look in the pages of the literary press for an answer. Ms Craig wrote a review of Hilary Mantel's novel, *A Charge of Climate*, in February 1994's *Literary Review*, and got one or two facts wrong. Ms Mantel wrote voicing a mild complaint. And, some years after last being in touch with Ms Craig, Sexton pounced on it in his silky-bitchy "NY" column in the *Times Literary Supplement* in April, where he hinted that Ms Craig hadn't read the book. Amanda then wrote to the *TLS* a month later, complaining that it was the result of typographical errors and the author's lack of clarity.

It was at just this time that Ms Craig was putting *A Vicious Circle* into shape. Did her alarmingly personal attack date from this encounter? You bet. By the end of the year it was clearly preying on her mind - witness another letter in the *TLS* (December 1994) taking issue with the magazine on the subject of authors' disclaimers ("All characters in this story are imaginary and no reference is intended to any living person...").

Did you see that story about the Staffordshire driveways? Surprised householders in Cannock, Staffs, woke up after a rainstorm to find that their newly laid driveways had melted away in a pong of spearmint, because the builders had used "broken

ASK YOUR CURRENT ACCOUNT AN AWKWARD QUESTION

Can I pay bills or check my balance at any time of the day or night?

The Alliance Account from Alliance & Leicester offers 24 hour telephone banking, low overdraft rates with no monthly fee and a £100 cheque guarantee/debit* and cash card.

If your bank account won't offer credit interest of up to 3.0% gross p.a. switch to brighter banking with the Alliance Account. For more details, phone us today or return the coupon.

Call FREE on 0500 95 95 95

Please send me more information about the Alliance Account from Alliance & Leicester. (BLOCK CAPITALS, please.)

Mr/Ms/Mrs/Ms Initials _____

Surname _____ Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel No (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Date of birth _____

Are you an Alliance & Leicester customer? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Return to: Alliance & Leicester Building Society, FREEPOST 1, LE94 4BL, Leicestershire LE1 5BR.

ALLIANCE LEICESTER

obituaries / gazette

Rose Williams

The troubled life of Rose Williams haunts the works of her brother Tennessee. Like a faded Southern belle eternally deserted, she is the model for the withdrawn, disabled "Laura Wingfield" who seeks refuge in her collection of glass animals in *The Glass Menagerie*. Her brother Tom declares, "Oh, Laura, Laura, I tried to leave you behind me, but I am more faithful than I intended to be!"

Rose Isabel Williams was born in Gulfport, Mississippi, in 1909, the first child of Edwin and Cornelia Williams. Her brother Thomas - Tennessee - was born three years later. The siblings became as close as twins; as Lyle Leverich writes in his admirable *Tom: the unknown Tennessee Williams* (1995), "Throughout his life, Tennessee Williams had two overriding devotions: his career as a writer and his sister, Rose." Initially proud of his daughter with her "expressive grey-green" eyes and auburn curls, his father later turned against her relationship with his wife as she deteriorated, and her resultant bias against sex had a serious effect on Rose and Tom, "that of deep and permanent injury... Rose would remain a virgin all her life."

As a child Rose was given to telling far-fetched tales of hard-pressed family life, "perhaps trying to overshadow her brother's storytelling talents". But Tennessee doted on his elder sister, and felt a sense of betrayal when she entered puberty and began to be interested in other boys:

... At fifteen my sister no longer waited for me, impatiently at the White Star Pharmacy corner into the discovery, Love!

It was additionally a betrayal for Tennessee, who would not come to terms with his own homosexuality until his late twenties.

This distorted, dysfunctional background (there was mental illness in both parents' families) inevitably influenced Williams' work. His backward-looking, over-heated Southern Gothic of regret and frustrated passion is suffused with the spirit of Rose, not only in *The Glass Menagerie* (1944), but in short stories such as "Portrait of a Girl in Glass" (1943) and "The Resemblance Between a Violin Case and a Coffin" (1950), in which he mourns "the magical intimacy of our childhood together", splintered by the oncoming of adolescence and sex.

Tennessee could take refuge in his "interior life of memories and fantasies"; Rose had no such resources to draw upon. She grew up outgoing, using make-up earlier than other girls, and was remembered as "very pretty and a bit standoffish". But by early teenage "her good spirits were turning into a kind of hysteria; her laughter was more nervous than natural; she was moody and was developing a strange little hunch".

Self-dramatisation had tipped over into pessimism: "Everything was, as she kept saying, 'just tragic!'" Such di-

ologue, delivered with a Southern accent, is echoed in the forlorn character of Blanche DuBois in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, who, like Rose, was ever disappointed in love.

By 1925, Rose's behaviour had become too erratic for her ailing mother to deal with, and it was decided to send her away to school in Vicksburg - a further separation from her brother. But the "wild jazz age summer" of 1925 was for Tennessee a remembrance of Rose and her boyfriends dancing the Charleston, memories again to resurface in his own work. Rose was preoccupied with pretty clothes and looking beautiful; from exile in Vicksburg she wrote to her brother in the languorous speech of a nascent Tennessee Williams heroine, "Here I sit in agony my face covered in green beauty clay. I don't need to tell you how striking the effect is. I think it's lovely of you to write to me so often even though I don't answer... as often as I should. You know stamps amount up and I am so busy." Her favourite song was "Poor Butterfly".

"Cruelly excluded" from the Williams family as Tennessee and his developing literary career became the battleground between his parents, at 18 Rose felt unloved, and relationships were inconstant: "My beau hasn't arrived yet, he comes in the morning and stays until one o'clock every night. I'm so tired of him I could scream..."

Edwina her mother realised, "For the past few years something unknown and fearful had been taking place in the mind of our spirited, imaginative Rose." It was hoped a good marriage would settle her, but her debut was "a fiasco from the first", wrote Edwina, "as everything in Rose's life seems to be". The local paper ran a large photograph of a wistful-looking Rose announcing she would be "the recipient of marked social attention", as she was, for a month; but none of the boys asked for a second date and, soon after, serious depression took hold. Severe stomach pains had Rose believing someone was trying to poison her; she fought bitterly with her father, who threatened to leave the family. She lacked



You must never make fun of insanity: Rose Williams in 1927. Photograph: Picture Collection, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, Austin, Texas; from Lyle Leverich, *Tom* (Hodder & Stoughton)

self-confidence, and her failure to stick to secretarial jobs was diagnosed by her psychiatrist as a fear of sex.

Edwina determined that Rose should have respectable "gentleman callers" and wanted Tennessee to bring home "some young friend" - as Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie* exhorts. "... For Sister! To meet! Get acquainted!" (Mrs Williams "never stopped talking", recalled a friend of Rose's). Yet Tennessee - still a virgin at 25, like his sister - hated her inept attempts at promiscuity: "Rose, I heard you offer yourself to Colin, and I want you to know that you disgusted me."

At 26, Rose's life began to go seriously out of kilter. Witness to a literary party given by her brother which got out of hand, she "informed" on him to their

mother. It was a traumatic turning-point: "I hate the sight of your ugly old face!" Tennessee screamed at her; the cruellest thing he'd ever done, he said. In his diary, he wrote: "... The house is wretched. Rose is on one of her neurotic sprees - fancies herself an invalid - talks in a silly dying-off way - trails around the house in negligees. Disgusting." Re-reading this three years later, Williams added a note: "God forgive me for this!"

"You must never make fun of insanity," Rose once reproved her brother. "It's worse than death." "A distance measured in silence" grew up between the siblings, and the estrangement precipitated the tragedy to come. Cornelius objected to the expense of private treatment, and threatened to put Rose in the State Asylum. Tennessee found it all impossible to deal with: "We have had no deaths in our family but slowly by degrees something was happening much uglier and more terrible than death. 'A pity the Church hasn't a place for girls like Rose,'" wrote her mother.

Tennessee's diary was witness to the irrevocable: "R. makes the house tragic, haunted. Must be put away, I suppose. An incredible horror to face."

In the State Hospital in Farmington, "Dementia Praecox (Schizophrenic) Mixed Type, Paranoid Predominant" was diagnosed, and insulin shock and Metrazol therapy prescribed. After six years of hopeless treatment, in 1943, Rose was given a bilateral prefrontal lobotomy, sanctioned by Edwina Williams, her husband

having given up on Rose. Tennessee's only comment was a journal entry in blank verse:

Grand, God be with you.
A chord breaking.
1000 miles away.
Rose. Her head cut open.
A knife thrust in her brain.
Me. Here. Smoking.
My father, mean as a devil, snoring - 1000 miles away.

Tennessee had last seen his sister in 1939, "her talk was so obscene - she laughed and talked continual obscenities". Post-lobotomy, he found her "possessed of an unbridled imagination, and from then on it would bid them...". His own obsession with mental illness remained with him as *Suddenly Last Summer* (1958), its heroine also facing insanity, bears witness; as Leverich writes, "He knew that Rose's reality was never far removed from his own."

Tennessee's success with *A Streetcar Named Desire* in 1947 allowed him to finance his sister's private care, and up until his death (he choked on a bottle cap) in 1983, Tennessee continued to pay for her upkeep, whilst intermittently blaming his mother (who died aged 94 in 1979) for having allowed the operation. Williams's estate was left to the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, with the bulk remaining in trust for his sister during her lifetime. With her death, the university will receive \$7m.

Philip Hoare
Rose Isabel Williams: born Gulfport, Mississippi 19 November 1909; died Tarrytown, New York 5 September 1996.

Elegy for Rose

She is a metal forged by love
too volatile, too fiery thin
so that her substance will be lost
as sudden lightning or as wind.

And yet the ghost of her remains
reflected with the metal gone,
a shadow as of shifting leaves
at moonrise or at early dawn.

A kind of rapture never quite
possessed again, however long
the heart lays siege upon a ghost
recaptured in a web of song.

Tennessee Williams

Dr Bernard Reiss

Bernard Reiss was prominent among the doctors who transformed general practice after the Second World War, by introducing vocational training for prospective GPs and pioneering communication skills.

Medicine had previously been hierarchical and, although there have always been humane doctors, in most cases treatment was prescriptive in both senses of the word: with the bottle of coloured medicine, the patient was told what to do. Reiss realised that the spirit of the times had changed.

He came from a long line of Liberal, and later Fabian, active altruists - his father was the founder of both Welwyn Garden City and Hampstead Garden Suburb - and, from both nature and nurture, he had the ideal background for the new style of GP. Intelligent, warm, modest, humane, and wise, he had rejected all

forms of privilege long before it was fashionable; he broke the family tradition of going to Balliol College, Oxford, because he thought that Bart's in London would be more like real life, and he did not regret that choice.

Until the 1950s, going into general practice was regarded as a last resort. It hadn't the prestige it enjoys today and most doctors wanted to specialise. While we students lazed away the vacations, Reiss would go and work for nothing in the Peckham Health Centre, that cradle of the NHS, and he took a higher degree. Membership of the Royal College of Physicians, because he wanted to go into general practice well prepared. This was almost unique at that time, and that sort of philosophy was partly responsible for the resurgence of general practice.

Reiss was a GP in Cambridge from 1959 until his re-

irement in 1990. He was, together with Ian Tate, a like-minded GP in Aldeburgh, the first Regional Adviser in General Practice for East Anglia. Reiss played a key role in the foundation of the Clinical School at Cambridge University in 1976, and he became the first Director of GP Studies there. He was one of the first to think of general practice as a speciality, and pioneered the use of general practice as a setting in which to teach medicine to clinical students.

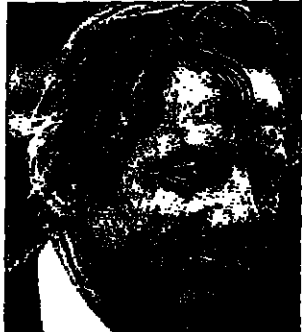
Bernard Reiss's diffidence and slowness of speech concealed a rock-hard integrity and high-mindedness covering all aspects of his life. At the Suez crisis in 1956, he was on the RAF reserve and told me that he hoped to be called up, so that he could refuse and go to prison.

I once stood in a queue next to Lord Platt, the former President of the Royal College of

Physicians. I said to him, "Your main claim to fame, Sir, is that you've got the finest General Practitioner in the country." He almost burst with enthusiasm and agreed; he said that Reiss would listen patiently to his erroneous self-diagnosis, question him, examine him and disagree. He did all this respectfully but firmly. Platt said that, if the positions had been reversed, he couldn't have done it all as well.

Reiss's wife Margaret was a social worker and they shared a vision of healthcare - giving and teaching. It saddened them to see the changes in the NHS which made it less personal and more money-minded. Bernard Reiss was righteously but never self-righteously, open-hearted, invariably unhurried and gentle, lovable and loving. No wrong thought ever ventured anywhere near him.

David Mendel



Reiss: open-hearted

Bernard Buiss Reiss, medical practitioner: born Welwyn Garden City 8 December 1925; General Practitioner 1959-90; Director of General Practice Studies, Cambridge University 1976-90; Life Fellow, Hughes Hall 1981-96; OBE 1981; married 1958 Margaret Boak (two sons, one daughter, and one son deceased); died Cambridge 2 August 1996.

former Bishop of Edmonton, 89; Sir Arthur Sargent, former chief executive, CWS, 78; Sir Gervase Walker, former chairman, Avon County Council, 76; Mr Max Walker, cricketer, 49; Miss Rachel Ward, actress, 39; Professor George Zarnacki, art historian, 81.

Anniversaries

Births: Francis I. King of France, 1494; Sir William Dugdale, herald and antiquary, 1605; Richard Jordan Gatling, inventor of the Gatling gun, 1818; Herbert Henry Asquith, first Earl of Oxford and Asquith, statesman, 1852; Frederick Louis MacNeice, poet and broadcaster, 1907; John Cleveland (lease) Owens,

athlete, 1913. Deaths: Dr Peter Mark Roget, lexicographer, 1869; Rupert D'Oyly Carte, operatic impresario, 1948; Anthony Perkins, actor, 1992; Raymond William Stacy Barr, actor, 1993. On this day: Elton John received his first charter, 1448; the Hudson river was discovered by Henry Hudson, 1609; Drogheda was sacked by Oliver Cromwell, 1649; the obelisk of Thothmes III ("Cleopatra's Needle") was erected on the Thames Embankment, London, 1878; the world's first policeman, Mrs Alice Stephens Wells, was appointed to the Los Angeles Police Department, 1910; the Lancia Caves, France, containing examples of Cro-Magnon man's art, were discovered, 1940; Benito Mussolini, imprisoned by the Allies, was

rescued by the Germans, 1943; Nikita Khrushchev became first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, 1953. Today is the Feast Day of St Aubine, St Eanswid and St Guy of Anderlecht.

Lectures

National Gallery: Mari Griffin, "A Icon (B): Vulture, Two Girls Walking", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Deirdre Robson, "Art Deco", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Justine Hopkins, "What is Truth? Changing Views of Nature from the 19th to the 20th Century", 6pm.

Luncheons

Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce: Mr Michael Harris, Premier of Ontario, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon held yesterday by the Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce, at the Four Seasons Hotel, London NW1. Mr Michael Chapman, President of the Chamber, presided.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal attends the University of Bath's International Colloquium on Sport and Higher Education into the 21st Century at the Guildhall, Bath, Somerset, as Patron, Institute of Logistics, presents the National Awards at the 1996 Annual Awards Ceremony and Dinner, Royal Lancaster Hotel, London W2. Princess Alexandra opens the new conference facilities at Auckland Castle, Bishop Auckland, County Durham.

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS may be telephoned to 0171-293 2011. 24-hour telex service 0171-293 2012 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at 55.50 a line (VAT extra).

Bill Moyce

Bill Moyce was an important member of the team that built and tested Britain's first atomic bombs in the late 1940s and early 1950s and he remained at Aldermaston in a variety of senior positions all his career. He was a versatile scientist and an able manager, but he was perhaps most notable for his unflappable and for his good humour, qualities tested to the limit in those early atomic days.

In 1952, for example, it was Moyce who was chosen to fly out to Australia with the plutonium core which was to be used in the first British nuclear test. This was without doubt the most valuable object in the country. Sellafield and Aldermaston had been built to make it - and there was natural concern about its safe-keeping. Moyce was told that if during the flight out it looked as though the RAF plane was going to crash, he was to clutch the container in his arms, bail out and descend by parachute. It was fortunate that this proved unnecessary, for, as he recalled later, he had never made a parachute jump and it was his first flight in an aeroplane. He was also very doubtful about his ability to hold on to it at the moment the parachute opened.

William Moyce was born in Brockley, south-east London, in 1913. His father, a Fleet Street printer, taught him to set type, but he had other ambitions. From grammar school he won a scholarship to Downing College, Cambridge, graduating in Natural Sciences in 1934. A year later he landed his first job, at Woolwich Arsenal, and he was to spend his entire career in armaments science.

He spent the war in the Poteries, at an outstation of Woolwich devoted to improving the performance of small arms, and it was there, in late 1946 or early 1947, that he caught the eye of William Penney, the father of the British bomb. It is a measure of Penney's shrewdness that he saw Moyce's genuine talent behind his rather higgledy manner and his oddly drawing south London delivery.

Initially, Moyce worked at Fort Halstead, Penney's headquarters near Sevenoaks in Kent, on what was called the "phenomenology" of nuclear weapons, that is, studying the processes that took place in the course of the explosion. As the pressure grew to make the

atomic bomb, however, he was transferred to more applied work and given the job of designing and supervising criticality experiments. An atomic bomb works by combining two pieces of plutonium which, while separate, will not explode, but when forced together violently achieve the "critical mass". The margins are tight, and it was Moyce's task to see that they were observed.

Anthony Thomas, a junior member of Moyce's team who also died recently, told me: "Moyce was trained as a physical chemist, and at first he didn't know the difference between a neutron and a little black ball. But in 18 months he



Moyce: free-thinking

knew so much that he was arguing, on visits to Harwell, with some of the leading physicists in the country. He had a child-like mind; so clear, always asking the awkward question. He could span all science without apparent effort."

In September 1952, at Aldermaston, the first hemispheres of the plutonium core of the bomb were cast, and Moyce and his men spent a tense 20 hours verifying that they could be combined without risk of a premature explosion. They had constructed a giant rig, ringed with neutron counters, which brought the two halves close together, millimetre by millimetre, until they touched. The counters were there to give warning of premature criticality, although if there had been a genuine accident any warning would almost certainly have come too late and some or all of those present would have died.

There were no accidents; the core was safe, and Moyce took it to Australia. The bomb was placed in a re-

dundant frigate, HMS *Pym*, and, early in the morning of 2 October, Moyce supervised the loading of the core into the huge high-explosive jacket - a great ball almost five feet across whose job was to crush the plutonium and precipitate the explosion. Again, this was a millimetre-by-millimetre job with counters clicking away all the time. Eddie Howe, a colleague, has recalled pacing up outside the bomb room listening to Moyce's voice from within in saying "Slow... slow... readings going up... stop... wait... go down...". This operation took 90 minutes.

The test, called Operation Hurricane, was a success, and Moyce's future in the nuclear weapons business was assured. Like many of that first generation - now sadly dwindling in numbers - he remained at Aldermaston for the rest of his career, playing a part in all the great projects: the H-bomb, Polaris, WE-177, Chevaline. For much of this time he was in charge of the explosives division, which supplied the conventional explosive element for warheads. This was an exacting field, given the continuous demand for smaller, lighter and more efficient weapons.

Moyce's tasks were by now largely managerial, but he never lost his scientific insight or his knack of asking the penetrating question. Pat Caccia, who worked for him in explosives, recalls: "He was a free-thinking scientist. Without getting too involved in detail, he made contributions in every area which were fundamental and deep."

Moyce finished his career in 1973 as head of safety at Aldermaston. He was a tall man with big ears and a slightly gloomy air, an appearance which proved a great complement to his comic gifts. He was the joker of the team, with a dry London wit and the gift of telling a story. In retirement he devoted himself to gardening. He is survived by his wife Barbara, whom he married at the time he joined the bomb project in 1947, and his son John, who was born within a week of the 1952 Hurricane test.

Brian Cathcart

William Moyce, nuclear weapons scientist: born 12 October 1913; OBE 1963; married 1947 Barbara Marston Campbell (one son); died Newbury 6 September 1996.

Admiral José Merino

Admiral José Merino was the strongman's strongman. While General Augusto Pinochet was the stern face of repression familiar to the world for 17 years of military rule in Chile, the lesser-known admiral was the unbending backbone of its junta all those traumatic years.

Merino was the prime mover in the coup that ousted the world's first democratically elected Marxist president, Salvador Allende, in 1973. Though only second in command of the navy, he undermined his commander-in-chief, Admiral Montt, who was inclined to continue support for Allende and his Popular Unity Party.

Merino would have none of it. He despatched a note to the army and air force commanders, Generals Pinochet and Leigh, urging them to act. They did so with force, bombarding the presidential palace. Allende was killed, along with thousands of other Chileans. Many more were to die subsequently at the hands of the regime, kidnapped, tortured and disappeared, adding a new word to state terrorism - the "desaparecidos".

It was a mirror image of the neighbouring Argentina's Dirty War, if not on such a huge scale, though Chile's junta lasted longer and was more vilified internationally, coming in for particularly severe condemnation from the British Labour Party, whose senior members had been personal friends of Allende. As in Argentina, the navy under Merino were every bit as ruthless as their publicly more predominant army partners.

Merino took over command of the navy as Pinochet ruled with an iron hand, brooking no opposition. The army chief systematically disposed of his opponents. While General Leigh was ousted from the three-man junta in 1978, it was testimony to Merino's influence and power that he remained to the end,

leaving office only when Pinochet reluctantly handed government back to civilian rule in 1990. Throughout, Merino was Pinochet's confident and potent partner, every bit as authoritarian as his master and deeply distrustful of politicians. He regarded Allende's party as a tool of Communist expansion in Latin America as did the then United States government, which was implicated through the CIA in efforts to undermine Allende's government.

Surprisingly to the outside world, the military government was not as universally detested within Chile as it was abroad. Many middle-class Chileans praised the junta for restoring order on the streets, ending the anarchy of the last days of the Allende regime and pursuing what appeared to be pragmatic monetarist policies in a new free market economy. Merino went along with this to some extent, but when Pinochet embarked upon a policy of privatisation, targeting Chile's ports, Merino stepped in and declared that he must remain in charge of these important installations on Chile's very long and vulnerable coastline. He got his way.

Like many of Latin America's military rulers, Merino was a deeply conservative Roman Catholic, publicly expressing his ethos of "the Flag, Church and Family". Yet it was the Catholic Church and its courageous clergy which led the fight against human rights violations. It was not an unusual sight to see Merino and other military leaders praying in church, while a few blocks away their opponents were being tortured and killed, a graphic example of the double standards of Merino and his fellow senior officers.

After 10 years, cracks began to appear and the military regime made concessions in response to growing dissent, allowing civilians into senior gov-



Merino: authoritarian

ernment posts. While Merino and Pinochet blamed much of Chile's troubles and its bad image abroad on an international Communist conspiracy master-minded from Moscow, the most effective challenge to their authoritarian rule came from the more moderate political groups within the country itself and even from some sections of the armed forces.

While the austere Pinochet insisted on remaining army chief, Merino went into retirement in the naval port city of Valparaíso, playing golf and secure in the knowledge that there could be no punishment of the military for human rights violations. Pinochet had secured an amnesty providing them with immunity from prosecution.

Merino had been born into a naval family and spent some time in England, first as a boy when his father was Chilean naval attaché in France, and then later in London as his country's assistant naval attaché in 1956 and 1957.

Harold Britley

José Toribio Merino Castro, naval officer: born 14 December 1913; member, Chilean Government Junta 1973-90; married 1952 Margarita Riquelme Bustos (three daughters); died Valparaíso 31 August 1996.

BIRTHS

COOKES: On 4 September 1996, to Kim (née Hutchings) and Julia, a son, Sebastian Thomas Latent, a brother for Frederick and Benedict.

FLEMING: On 6 September, at the Rose Free, Hampstead, to Michelle (née Douerin) and Peter, a daughter, Solène.

DEATHS

MATTHEWS: Roger Charles, passed away at home on 10 September. Much-loved husband of Staisiphi (Noffe), father of Amber and Zoe, son of Audrey and Geoffrey, and brother of Elizabeth. Funeral service for family and close friends will be held at Chichester Crematorium at 12pm on Monday 16 September. The date for thanksgiving service will be announced at a later date. No flowers.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

ers please, but if wished, donations to the Macmillan Service, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 0BL.

SPROXTON: Vernon, on 9 September 1996, at Tunzani, North Wales, husband of Margaret and father to Ruth, David and the late Andrew. Funeral, 2.30pm, Monday 16 September, at the United Reformed Church, Northgate, Dorchester, followed by private interment at St Eloy's Parish Church, Great Smeaton. No flowers, donations to charity.

Birthdays

Miss Maria Aitken, actress and stage director, 51; Sir Lindsay Alston, former deputy chairman, Lloyd's Bank, 76; Mr Nicholas Barker, Principal, RADA, 56; Miss Cuthi Bouchier, actress, 57; Colonel Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel, chief of the clan, 86; Mr Alan Cathcart, chairman, Avis Europe, 53; Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Compston, 81; Miss Linda Gray, actress, 55; Mr Wesley Hall, cricketer and politician, 59; Miss Elin Supin, doctor and author, 79; Mr Ian Holm, actor, 65; Mr Gerald Howard MBE, 49; Mr Freddie Jones, actor, 64; Mr Donald Lethman, rugby player, 57; Lord Milner of Leeds, solicitor and politician, 73; Mr Patrick Mower, actor, 55; The Right Rev Alan Rogers,

former Bishop of Edmonton, 89; Sir Arthur Sargent, former chief executive, CWS, 78; Sir Gervase Walker, former chairman, Avon County Council, 76; Mr Max Walker, cricketer, 49; Miss Rachel Ward, actress, 39; Professor George Zarnacki, art historian, 81.

Anniversaries

Births: Francis I. King of France, 1494; Sir William Dugdale, herald and antiquary, 1605; Richard Jordan Gatling, inventor of the Gatling gun, 1818; Herbert Henry Asquith, first Earl of Oxford and Asquith, statesman, 1852; Frederick Louis MacNeice, poet and broadcaster, 1907; John Cleveland (leaze) Owens,

athlete, 1913. Deaths: Dr Peter Mark Roget, lexicographer, 1869; Rupert D'Oyly Carte, operatic impresario, 1948; Anthony Perkins, actor, 1992; Raymond William Stacy Barr, actor, 1993. On this day: Elton John received his first charter, 1448; the Hudson river was discovered by Henry Hudson, 1609; Drogheda was sacked by Oliver Cromwell, 1649; the obelisk of Thothmes III ("Cleopatra's Needle") was erected on the Thames Embankment, London, 1878; the world's first policeman, Mrs Alice Stephens Wells, was appointed to the Los Angeles Police Department, 1910; the Lancia Caves, France, containing examples of Cro-Magnon man's art, were discovered, 1940; Benito Mussolini, imprisoned by the Allies, was

rescued by the Germans, 1943; Nikita Khrushchev became first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, 1953. Today is the Feast Day of St Aubine, St Eanswid and St Guy of Anderlecht.

Lectures

National Gallery: Mari Griffin, "A Icon (B): Vulture, Two Girls Walking", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Deirdre Robson, "Art Deco", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Justine Hopkins, "What is Truth? Changing Views of Nature from the 19th to the 20th Century", 6pm.

Luncheons

Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce: Mr Michael Harris, Premier of Ontario, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon held yesterday by the Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce, at the Four Seasons Hotel, London NW1. Mr Michael Chapman, President of the Chamber, presided.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal attends the University of Bath's International Colloquium on Sport and Higher Education into the 21st Century at the Guildhall, Bath, Somerset, as Patron, Institute of Logistics, presents the National Awards at the 1996 Annual Awards Ceremony and Dinner, Royal Lancaster Hotel, London W2. Princess Alexandra opens the new conference facilities at Auckland Castle, Bishop Auckland, County Durham.

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS may be telephoned to 0171-293 2011. 24-hour telex service 0171-293 2012 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at 55.50 a line (VAT extra).

Investment: Sea change looms for Coats 20
Market report: Oil shares gush on Iraqi tensions 22
Unit trusts 23

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Deutsche foots bill for Morgan bonus bonanza

JILL TREANOR and ELISABETH KLEIN

Deutsche Bank, the German giant behind three troubled Morgan Grenfell Asset Management funds, is expected to pay millions of pounds of bonuses to fund managers in spite of the enormous losses revealed last week.

The bonuses will be paid to help Morgan Grenfell Asset Management retain its highly-regarded fund management team and improve morale, which has taken a severe knock after three top-performing funds were suspended last week as a result of the activities of Peter Young, the fund manager at the centre of investigations.

A senior official in Frankfurt made clear that there was no intention of cancelling bonuses because of the losses run up by Mr Young, which have forced Deutsche to inject £180m so far.

"Before we can say anything precise about the extent to which bonuses will be affected, we have to know how big the damage is," Hellmut Hartmann, spokesman for Deutsche Bank, said in Frankfurt.

"But I don't believe that even if there will be a poorer performance of the funds it will influence the bonuses to a big extent. Our advantage is that a financially strong parent stands behind this unfortunate incident," Mr Hartmann said. "This has done quite a lot of damage to our image," he added.

This emerged as Deutsche Bank committed itself to further protecting the funds by promising to buy units in the two trusts affected - European Growth Trust and Europa - and shares in European Capital Growth Fund.

Mr Young, manager of European Capital Growth and European Growth, was suspended last week after regulators uncovered a maze of Luxembourg-registered shell companies which he appears to have used to hide his exposure to risky hi-tech stocks.

It is believed that fund managers at Morgan Grenfell Asset Management are paid bonuses around February or March on the basis of the entire group's performance but with an additional discretionary award based on their own performance.

Bonuses are crucial in the City, where basic salaries, already substantial, can be at least doubled by the yearly bonus round. Last year ING, the Dutch bank that took over Barings after it collapsed, was forced to honour bonus promises to keep key teams together. A sudden loss of staff can even jeopardise the stability of firms.

Fund managers, traditionally the poor relative to bond, foreign exchange and derivative traders, can still expect bonuses of at least 70 per cent of their basic salary, which can reach £100,000.

"Performance is important and fund managers who are successful will be rewarded," said Martin Symon, consultant at headhunters Jonathan Wren. Remuneration packages also attract the attention of regulators because of concerns that pay deals based on performance can encourage executives to take too many risks.

Mr Hartmann acknowledged that risks are taken by Deutsche employees. "Obviously our control system didn't work well enough, but we can't hand out our staff. We want them to work as real entrepreneurs, who take a higher risk in order to make a higher profit."

The German bank has sent Udo Behrenwald, head of DWS, its German fund management arm, to London to help unravel Mr Young's trading positions and establish why he managed to hide his actions from his managers.

The bank does not intend to send any other German officials to sort out its flagship British arm.

"The examination of the proceedings and the control system will probably take a couple of weeks. We are still busy finding out what has actually happened," Mr Hartmann said.

Morgan Grenfell said that the rate of redemption had continued to slow down significantly and "there is currently sufficient liquidity in each of the three investment funds to meet redemption demands."

Comment, page 21



Set for an autumn flotation: Robert Peel (far right), chief executive of Thistle Hotels

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

TOM STEVENSON City Editor

Thistle cautious over float price

Thistle Hotels took its cue from the recent postponement of Lloyds' hotel division spin-off and steered a cautious line on the pricing of its forthcoming flotation yesterday. Robert Peel, chief executive, restated his confidence that there would be plenty of demand, but the valuation range he unveiled was below more optimistic expectations earlier in the summer.

Although the company has never commented officially on what it hoped to raise, the market expected had been led to expect a market value on flotation of up to £1.5bn. The expected

offer price of between 170p and 210p would value the four-star chain between £1.05bn and £1.24bn.

One banker involved in the flotation said he was relieved by the pricing. He added that at anything over £1.2bn, the issue would become increasingly less attractive. There has been a steady stream of hotel company flotations this year and some in the City are beginning to worry

it is the biggest hotelier ahead of Granada.

Had the shares been listed for the whole of the current year, the company said, a total dividend of 3.7p per share would have been paid giving a gross yield of between 2.2 and 2.7 per cent.

Thistle also confirmed yesterday that Brierley Investments, which owns 70 per cent of the shares, would be reducing its stake by selling 17 per cent of its existing holding. Two investment arms of the Singapore government, which own the rest of the shares, would be selling a similar proportion.

Share applications by private investors must be with intermediaries by 27 September.

Ofgas likely to phase in suppliers

CHRIS GODSMARK Business Correspondent

Ofgas, the Gas industry watchdog, yesterday gave its clearest signal yet that it would phase in the move towards full competition for domestic customers, instead of throwing the market open in one move in the spring of 1998.

The news raised the possibility of delays for some of the more than 16 million affected households, which might not be able to shop around for alternative gas supplies to British Gas until the end of 1998 at best.

"When you come to look at nationwide competition you can't do it overnight. You'll have to phase it in then," said an Ofgas spokesman.

"One of the things we're looking at is phasing it over a period of time. It doesn't make sense to do it in one big bang," he said.

The spokesman said a timetable had not been decided. However, independent gas suppliers who compete with British Gas suggested full-scale competition might start at the beginning of 1998 and continue for several months.

Mark Peterson, the managing director of Total Gas Marketing, a joint venture between the French oil giant and London Electricity, said: "We've got to look to the right solution, if Transco can't cope for 16 million people potentially switching from British Gas in one day. Nobody is looking for a delay apart from British Gas."

The news increases the pressure on the electricity industry to adopt a similar, phased approach to domestic competition for power supplies, planned to take place in one go in April 1998.

Ofgas yesterday confirmed that it was to roll out the second stage of its ongoing competition trial by extending choice to 1.5 million additional homes earlier than the industry had expected.

More than 500,000 households in Dorset and the former county of Avon will be able to choose their supplier from 13 January, with up to a further 1 million customers in Kent and East and West Sussex added on 7 February. The process had been expected to happen in April 1997.

In the first trial area, in the South-west, 500,000 homes have had a choice of gas company for more than four months. So far about 70,000 have switched from British Gas.

The decision to phase in the second stage of competition was welcomed by the Gas Consumers' Council yesterday. Some customers in the South-west had complained after British Gas accidentally debited hundreds of pounds from their bank accounts when they switched to alternative companies.

Reuters to make £613m payout to shareholders

MATHEW HORSMAN Media Editor

Reuters, the financial information giant, yesterday launched an innovative plan to pay out £613m of its £850m cash pile to shareholders over three years.

The buyback, which will reduce the number of ordinary shares outstanding by 5 per cent, takes the form of a bonus issue of new special dividend shares, paying 75p each over three years. This is worth about 37.5p per existing Reuters share.

The complicated structure was linked to tax minimisation, Reuters insiders said yesterday.

Registered shareholders on 8 October will be entitled to one new share and 19 new ordinary shares for every 20 shares they hold. The cashback scheme will require the approval of shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting scheduled for 9 October.

The extent of the move surprised analysts, who had been signalling a share repurchase worth perhaps £300m. The shares jumped 14p yesterday to close at 764p.

Reuters last rewarded investors in 1993 through a controversial share repurchase scheme that put £324m into the pockets of shareholders. Tax-exempt institutions were able to claim tax credits, at a considerable cost to the Inland Revenue.

Robert Rowley, finance director, said the new scheme was created once it became clear that the Inland Revenue would not allow a repeat of the 1993 buyback. "We had to go back and rethink the issue," he said.

He added that the approach, while complicated, was necessary if all shareholders, including US residents, were to be treated equally.

The Inland Revenue has not pre-approved the scheme, and indeed is reserving the right to apply anti-avoidance measures if it believes the dividend qualifies as "abnormal". However, tax specialists consulted by Reuters said shareholders ought to be able to show they hold the special dividend shares for bona fide commercial reasons and not largely in order to obtain a tax advantage.

Spinning cash back to shareholders has become popular in the US and the UK, and has led both tax jurisdictions to tighten the rules. Mr Rowley said it was much easier to reward shareholders in this way than to "continually answer questions from shareholders and analysts about what we were going to do with the money."

Reuters has been acquisitive in recent years, and its huge cash position - £850m and no debt - made it a favourite candidate for launching a mega-bid. But the company has routinely said it would not acquire companies outside its main areas of competence.

Key to Reuters phenomenal growth has been its core financial information products, most recently the series 3000 display screens for the use of financial professionals. It dominates the market for foreign exchange information, and has seen off competitors such as Bloomberg. It is also poised to take advantage of growing interest in emerging markets.

Comment, page 21

Grid investors protest at new price regime

CHRIS GODSMARK Business Correspondent

Investors holding up to a third of the shares in the National Grid have written to the electricity regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild, to protest at proposed tough new price controls.

Some leading fund managers have urged the Grid to take the dispute to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission if Ofgas, the watchdog, refuses to water down the four-year price regime when the final formula is unveiled, possibly later this month.

One of the Grid's main shareholders said: "I have absolutely no doubt they should go to the MMC. I think they've got a very strong case."

National Grid, which operates the high-voltage electricity transmission network, had appealed to investors to write to the regulator, in the same way as British Gas did over its row with Ofgas. Many attacked the price regime, which would slash

up to £1.2bn off the Grid's revenues in four years.

From next April, the formula would knock between 20 and 26 per cent off charges, and limit any increases in the following three years to no more than 4 per cent, plus or minus inflation. The cuts would be worth

£4 to £5 off average domestic electricity bills.

David Gould, manager of investment services at the National Association of Pension Funds, which has also written to Ofgas, said: "The proposals are clearly detrimental to shareholders. There should be a fair

balance between the interests of shareholders and consumers and in this case the balance is against investors."

National Grid yesterday claimed the proposals were "the harshest in the energy sector", describing them as "inconsistent and based on ill-founded assumptions." The company's formal response in the consultation process said the controls would "result in an immediate expropriation of exceptional efficiency gains achieved under the current price control."

Offer argued that the Grid could cut its operating costs by between 4 and 6 per cent each year, after allowing for inflation. The company fiercely disputed this calculation. It said it had already reduced its costs by 37 per cent in the past three years and could only make future efficiency savings worth 2.3 per cent a year.

Some City electricity analysts last night suggested the argument was shifting towards the Grid, raising the prospect of

an MMC investigation should Professor Littlechild decide not to back down. Last month, Northern Ireland Electricity rejected a five-year price regime, triggering an immediate MMC referral.

"Offer has no evidence that the Grid is inefficient," said one analyst. "But the regulator is using a price formula which suggests the company is inefficient. That is totally perverse."

Another key area of dispute is over Ofgas's £4bn calculation of National Grid's assets, which the company insists are worth £4.75bn, which would give shareholders a greater return.

Professor Littlechild had deducted £400m from the asset base to represent the value of Energis, the Grid's new telecommunications operation. Yet during the Grid's flotation no value had been attributed to the business. Another fund manager said Offer had "used the most pessimistic market value for the Grid that you could possibly come up with."



Row sparked: Professor Littlechild, electricity regulator

Matthew Clark chief's position 'under review'

PATRICK TOOHER

Shares in Matthew Clark, the cider maker and soft drinks group, remained in free fall yesterday as investors demanded more information, and even some management changes, following Tuesday's shock profits warning.

Almost £200m, or nearly half of Clark's stock market value, has disappeared in two days of hectic trading since chief executive Peter Aikens blamed a new breed of 'alco-pops' and other alcoholic lemon drinks aimed at younger drinkers for a slump in demand for its Diamond White and K Cider brands and Babyham.

"The further fall in the share price speaks volumes for the lack of confidence that now exists," said one leading institutional investor. "Quite how sales disappeared in two months stretches credibility. It is almost unprecedented for a company this size."

Last night the shares closed 75.5p lower at 355.5p, valuing the company at just over £400m. More than 9 million shares have changed hands since the profits warning compared with average daily dealings of around 400,000.

Fund managers are demanding more details from the company before addressing the question of possible boardroom changes.

"Clearly Mr Aikens' position has to be under review," said one institution, "but we need to establish the facts before any heads roll."

Mr Aikens has used a series of rights issues to pursue an acquisitions-led strategy over the past six years, turning Clark into Britain's second-largest cider maker and a leading soft drinks producer whose brands include Strathmore mineral water and Taunton and Gaymer's ciders.

What is puzzling analysts and investors is why this deliberate diversification policy still left the Clark group so exposed to a sudden switch during the summer from strong white cider to alco-pops. The three brands affected

by the shift in consumption pattern account for about one-fifth of Clark's profits.

"There might be more to this than just alco-pops," said a fund manager. One suggestion is that internal management targets for Taunton, the cider company bought by Mr Clark for £27m last September, had been raised to unrealistic levels on the back of booming cider sales during the long, hot summer of 1995.

Mr Clark has already incurred the wrath of fund managers last month when it emerged that Mr Aikens received a £430,000 relocation package after the company moved its headquarters to Bristol from Guildford.

Gokal 'bribed BCCI officers'

The head of an international shipping and trading empire plotted with senior officials of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International to siphon off millions of pounds, leading to its collapse and a disaster for its depositors, the Old Bailey heard yesterday.

Abbas Gokal, 60, and his two brothers had run up a \$1.2bn (£770m) debt to the bank when it folded in July 1991, said Anthony Hacking QC, prosecuting.

Mr Gokal had operated a massive swindle involving corrupt officials, secret global bank accounts, vast numbers of fake documents and other people's money to fund a lavish lifestyle, he alleged.

A false document factory was set up in BCCI's City of London headquarters in Leadenhall Street to feed the fraud, the court heard.

A sham financial structure was created "which was used as a screen to deceive the outside world as to what was really going on between him and BCCI", Mr Hacking told the court.

Mr Gokal, 60, has denied conspiracy to defraud and conspiracy to account falsely between 1985 and 1991.

He ran a collection of companies from Geneva and London called the Gulf Group, according to the prosecution. Bribes were paid to three of the BCCI officers involved in

the fraud, routed through bank accounts that Mr Gokal controlled, the prosecution alleged.

Documents signed by him were found by the Serious Fraud Office in a safe deposit box in the City of London "which showed that he and his two brothers owned and controlled the companies involved in the frauds," said Mr Hacking.

"They show that he and his two brothers incurred \$1.2bn of debt owed to BCCI. There was no real security. BCCI had not got any real security in this extraordinary situation. This was a major factor leading to the closing and collapse of BCCI."

"We say the Gulf Group and Gokal himself had a dishonest relationship with senior officials of BCCI going back to the Seventies. Within that relationship, Gokal and the Gulf Group secretly received millions upon millions of dollars from BCCI in the Eighties," said Mr Hacking.

After the collapse, most of the conspirators went to Pakistan where they were safe because there was no extradition treaty with Britain, the court heard.

Mr Gokal also went, but in December 1994 caught a plane travelling from Pakistan to the United States which put down in Frankfurt to refuel. Mr Gokal was arrested and extradited to Britain. The trial is expected to last six months.

STOCK MARKETS					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996 High	1996 Low
FTSE 100	3905.60	-10.50	-0.3	3918.70	3622.30
FTSE 250	4418.30	-20.10	-0.5	4568.60	4015.20
FTSE 350	1983.50	-6.00	-0.3	1980.50	1816.50
FT Small Cap	2177.20	+3.30	+0.2	2244.36	1954.06
FT All Share	1930.85	-5.20	-0.3	1936.24	1791.95
New York	5752.70	+25.62	+0.4	5778.00	5032.94
Tokyo	20571.04	+11.45	+0.1	22668.20	19734.70
Hong Kong	11238.35	+12.74	+0.1	11594.98	10204.87
Frankfurt	2568.80	-4.15	-0.2	2582.49	2253.36

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES					
Short sterling	UK medium gilt	US long bond	3 Month	1 Year	5 Year
5.00	6.08	7.28	7.77	8.01	7.87
5.41	6.13	6.96	8.20	7.14	6.59
0.38	0.68	2.31	2.84		
3.08	3.28	6.31	6.61	7.08	

BOND YIELDS					
UK	3 Month	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	30 Year
5.00	6.08	7.28	7.77	8.01	7.87
5.41	6.13	6.96	8.20	7.14	6.59
0.38	0.68	2.31	2.84		
3.08	3.28	6.31	6.61	7.08	

MAIN PRICE CHANGES					
Shares	Price (p)	Change (p)	Change (%)	Shares	Price (p)
Barclays	606.5	34	5.9	Carroll (Matthew)	355.5
British Petroleum	238.5	10	4.4	Scottish Widows	682.5
British Telecom	240	9	3.8	WPP Group	220.5

CURRENCIES					
£/\$	£/DM	£/Y	Yesterday	Change	New High
\$ (London)	1.5547	-0.020	1.5495		
\$ (NY)	1.5595	unch	1.5491		
DM (London)	2.3473	-0.010	2.3393		
DM (NY)	2.3473	-0.010	2.3393		
Y (London)	171.406	+0.338	158.752		
Y (NY)	171.406	+0.338	158.752		
£/Index	85.1	unch	85.5		

OTHER INDICATORS					
Commodities	Yesterday	Day's change	Year Ago	Index	Yesterday
Oil Brent	22.58	+0.76	16.88	RPI	152.4+2.20c
Gold	383.65	+0.20	384.45	GDP	107.9+0.4pc
Gold	246.77	+0.45	248.16	Base Rate	-5.75pc

business

Pru to launch telephone bank next month



Peter Davis: 'The first half of 1996 has been productive'

NIC CICHOTTI

Prudential, the UK's largest insurer, yesterday said its plans for a telephone bank offering both mortgages and savings products were on target for a launch date of 1 October.

Peter Davis, group chief executive at the Pru, said the bank's services would be aimed primarily at the company's existing customers.

"We are planning to have a range of mortgages available, as well as several deposit accounts, but because of competitive

pressures we cannot say too much until the end of the month."

The £33m development costs of the Pru's new banking arm helped dent the insurer's half-year profits, which still reached a record high of £421m, up from £390m in the first six months of last year. Mr Davis said: "The first half of 1996 has been a productive period for [us]. We have made significant progress in shaping the company to capture continued success."

Among the company's growth areas, seen as key to its

medium-term development strategy, the UK delivered profits of £203m, 2 per cent up on last year, excluding the bank set-up charges.

Sales of single premium products rose by 50 per cent to £1,577bn, while regular premium contribution sales reached £157m, up by 15 per cent.

Industry analysts have traditionally seen single premium income as less significant for insurers because they are capable of fluctuating heavily.

However, Mr Davis said: "When we spoke to the analysts

some were sceptical. But we do not think that is the case. Our view is that this is what customers want now."

"What they are doing has a solid underlying sense. They do not want to take on long-term commitments but prefer to make a single contribution when they have the resources."

"When they feel they have the resources they will come back again. We are quite happy with that approach."

Mercantile & General, the reinsurer which the Pru recently announced it was selling

to Swiss Re for £1.75m, contributed £90m to group profits in the first six months of the year.

Despite this contribution, Mr Davis restated his view that there were "no significant operational and strategic synergies between M&G and our other businesses".

The sale of M&G, together with a much smaller Dutch operation, Prudential Levens, gives the Pru a £1.8bn war chest to fund future acquisitions.

Mr Davis said the company wanted to buy a mortgage

lender to build its customer base but he refused to be drawn on which building society, if any, the Prudential was talking to.

"We are interested in buying a building society but for its branch network and its customer base rather than its mortgage book," he said, adding that the priority at present was for the Pru to complete its disposal of Mercantile & General.

Profits at Jackson National, the Pru's US arm, rose 30 per cent to £153m, contributing more than a third to the insurer's overall returns.

A sea change looming for Coats

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Take a company operating in mature, cut-throat markets, subject to hugely volatile raw material prices, and you have a pretty accurate picture of Coats Vytella's struggle over recent years. It is, therefore, hardly surprising that the shares have underperformed the rest of the market by more than 40 per cent over the past five years. Like most of the rest of the UK textile industry, Coats has been tarty at addressing the threat from overseas competition. But the group has been spurred into action by the looming demise in 2005 of the multi-fibre agreement, the textiles trade treaty that has protected high-cost Western producers.

A £55m restructuring will see a further massive transfer of Coats' production from the developed to the developing world. By 2000, about 40 per cent of its clothing sales to Marks & Spencer - worth about £300m - will be coming from abroad, up from 20 per cent now. While that will deliver cost savings, Coats will still have to run to stand still, as yesterday's half-year figures to June showed.

The 34 per cent slide in headline pre-tax profits to £47m was heavily impacted by the £17.2m cost of the first phase of the restructuring taken in the first half. But even without that, operating profits still slumped by a disappointing 11 per cent to £78m. Yet again, the group has failed to fire on all cylinders, with Brazil and Turkey turning down again after last year's continued strong recovery from previous problems. Together they accounted for £5m of the £8.5m downturn in pre-tax profits, which accounts for close to half the group's business.

Even so, how Coats addresses its difficulties in developed markets will be more important for its future. This year's profits will bear the full restructuring cost of £55m, including £22m to be spent in the European thread operations. Cost savings should rise from £10m this year to £35m by 1998, but Coats admits that competition will mean that only £20m to £25m actually hits the bottom line.

Short-term, the prospects are looking up, led by the US and UK. Profits were 16 per cent ahead across the Atlantic, while in the UK there are clear signs of an end to the destocking and gloomy housing markets. With raw material prices returning to more normal levels, the £5m hit on costs in the first half should reverse into a second-half gain of £10m.

"Clean" profits before exceptional costs of £158m this year would put the shares, up 3.5p at 164p, on a forward multiple of 12, assuming a 31 per cent

New enthusiasm for Kingfisher

It was only 18 months ago that most of the City was writing Kingfisher off as a basket case, a collection of second-line high street brands with serious question marks over its management capabilities. Since then, the shares have appreciated by about 60 per cent and yesterday analysts were upgrading their forecasts for the next two years.

Their renewed enthusiasm for the group, whose interests include B&Q, Woolworths, Superdrug and Comet, was underpinned by a sparkling set of profits for the six months to August that showed good growth in all its chains, even the Darty electricals shops in France.

After a 10 per cent rise in sales to £2.5bn, profits before tax jumped 47 per

cent to £109.6m, above almost everyone's expectations, earnings per share of 11.7p were 43 per cent higher, and shareholders were rewarded with an 11 per cent dividend hike from 4.5p to 5p.

B&Q, which overtook Darty in the period to be the biggest profit contributor with £47m (£31.8m), enjoyed a resurgence of interest in DIY from much more buoyant consumers. Good like-for-like growth was boosted by refits of the smaller supercentre stores and a focus on product availability.

Attention to merchandise also helped Woolworths, which never makes much of a profit in the relatively unimportant first half but still managed an impressive turnaround from last year's £900,000 loss to a £4.6m profit. Comet has started to claw back some of the ground it has lost to Dixons in recent years and Superdrug's repositioning as a health and beauty shop rather than a discount toiletries outlet seems finally to be paying off.

The important question is how much of this good news is in the price, which at 671.5p, up 6.5p, stands handsomely above their 400p low at the beginning of 1995. With forecasts for about £365m

in the year to next January and £415m next year, they stand on a prospective P/E ratio of 17, falling to 15.

That represents a small discount to the sector, which seems a little harsh given better-than-average growth prospects, rising consumer spending and a good toe-hold in Europe, the battleground which, in the longer term, will sort out retailing's winners and losers. Fair value.

ABP seeks port in a storm

Sir Keith Stuart, chairman of Associated British Ports, yesterday gave plenty of reasons Labour should not extend its proposed windfall tax on privatised utilities to the operator of 22 UK ports, including Southampton, Hull and Cardiff. Goldman Sachs recently included ABP in a list of potential victims of the proposed tax.

Sir Keith, formerly a non-executive chairman of Seaboard, was adamant that ABP was neither a utility nor a monopoly. He claimed, rightly, that the company faces competition at home and abroad, and has to invest heavily to remain competitive.

The other reason the tax would be inappropriate was not dwell on at any great length by Sir Keith - the interim results provided no evidence ABP is making the "excessive profits" Labour might be keen to plunder. The adverse share price reaction to news of a lower-than-expected 8 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £46.9m, suggested many in the City think ABP is not making nearly enough.

While investors who bought into ABP at privatisation in the Eighties have hit the jackpot, the shares have hovered around the 300p mark for almost three years.

Today cash-generative, ABP is concentrating on the less ambitious strategy of growing existing port operations rather than chasing acquisitions. Some £65m is being spent on developing Southampton alone and Sir Keith is confident that the fundamental attractions of the port will remain unchanged even if this week's merger between P&O's and Nedlloyd's container activities sees some existing contracts with ABP re-negotiated.

Broker SGST has left its full-year pre-tax forecast unchanged at £100m with the dividend seen rising a penny to 7.5p. On a forward P/E of 15, the shares, down 10p to 295p, yield only 3.2 per cent. Unexciting.

Independent may boost stake abroad

MATHEW HORSMAN

Independent Newspapers, the media company controlled by Dr Tony O'Reilly, could move this year to increase its direct stake in its Australian and New Zealand associate companies, using the proceeds of a previously announced £100m rights issue.

The option was under active consideration, Brendan Hopkins, managing director, said yesterday, commenting on the company's interim profits.

Independent could also bid for the 47 regional newspaper titles being sold by United News & Media, Lord Hollick's print and television media company.

The acquisitive mood was struck as half-year pre-tax profits improved by 25 per cent to £126m, buoyed by record profits and circulation gains at the company's core Irish titles. The

interim dividend was lifted 12 per cent to 2.3p, and the shares rose 5p to 307.5p.

Overseas, the results were particularly strong in South Africa and Australia, where Independent owns a stake in Australian Provincial Newspapers and ARN, the radio network.

Mr Hopkins said that moderating newspaper prices, as well as a buoyant advertising market in the UK, helped reduce losses at Newspaper Publishing, in which Independent has a 46 per cent stake. Newspaper Publishing owns the Independent and the Independent on Sunday, and saw operating losses decline in the first six months of the year to £7m, from £12.6m last time.

The company intends to pursue new television and radio licences in South Africa. But Mr Hopkins ruled out investments in the UK commercial radio sector.

IN BRIEF

• The prospect of an increase in US interest rates later this month sent US Treasury bonds lower yesterday but helped the dollar past the ¥110 level for the first time since mid-July and briefly rise above DM1.51. Janet Yellen, a Federal Reserve governor, said the economy looked vulnerable to inflation. The Fed's "Beige Book" summary of the economy said inflation indicators were inconclusive but there were upward pressures on wages.

• Trinity International Holdings, the regional newspaper publisher, announced sharply higher pre-tax profits of £23.8m, a rise of 79 per cent, reflecting for the first time its acquisition of Thomson's non-Scottish regional titles in January. Turnover doubled to £165.3m. The company is still in an acquisitive mood, having looked at Caledonian Publishing and Westminster Press this year. It is believed to be interested in the regional titles put up for sale last month by United News & Media.

• Classic FM, the national radio station, issued a writ against NTL, the transmission company, claiming damages of £3m. The radio station claimed NTL had not worked hard enough to change the terms of its contract with the BBC, under which NTL and the BBC share transmission sites. Under that contract, NTL charges third parties a per-user fee for access to BBC masts, which are also used to carry BBC's Radio 1, 2, 3, and 4. Classic FM, therefore, pays 50 per cent of the costs for a single service, while the BBC pays 50 per cent for four radio services.

• Garth Riley, chief executive of Telspec, the troubled telecommunications equipment maker, is to step down to head the company's European subsidiary. His demotion, which follows the departure of former finance director Russell Woolley earlier in the year, came as the group confirmed that it had plunged to a £6m loss in the six months to June, after profits of £2.7m last time.

• Christie's International, the auctioneers, is raising its interim dividend by 85 per cent to 1.2p after profits raced up 57 per cent to £15.9m in the six months to June.

Buoyant Mirror set to expand

MATHEW HORSMAN

Mirror Group yesterday vowed to expand further in media businesses, including newspapers and television, as it reported interim pre-tax profits, before exceptional costs, of £39m and improved cash flow.

David Montgomery, chief executive, said: "Mirror Group has outperformed other newspaper companies in absorbing a 35 per cent increase in newspaper costs. The quality of these results confirms Mirror Group as an efficiently run media business capable of further expansion."

He expressed regret that the group had failed to win the recent bidding war for Westminster Press, the regional newspaper group, but said he would look at other newspaper acquisitions "as and when they become available".

The Westminster Press bid had been mounted in league with Independent Newspapers, Dr Tony O'Reilly's media group, and Mr Montgomery said the two companies could work together in the future.

Independent Newspapers and Mirror Group each controls 46 per cent of Newspaper Publishing, which owns the Independent and the Independent on Sunday.

Mirror Group newspapers, led by the Daily Mirror and the Sunday Mirror, reported operating profits of £55.2m in the first six months of 1996, with margins roughly stable at 20 per cent. "That puts us at the top end of the market," Mr Montgomery said.

Shareholders will receive a 12.5 per cent increase in the interim dividend to 1.35p. Mirror Group's shares closed 6.5p higher at 207p yesterday.

Live TV, the group's cable television channel, was ahead of budget, Mr Montgomery said, and would be at break even by 1999. He added that independent consultants had put a value of £50m-£90m on the channel, and that the stock market was underestimating the power of the Live TV brand.

Hotel breaks with THE INDEPENDENT
2 nights for the price of 1

The Independent and the Independent on Sunday would like to invite you to take a hotel break and enjoy two nights for the price of one.

Simply pay for one night's bed and breakfast and you will get the next night, including breakfast, free. Prices are based on two people sharing a double or twin room.

All the participating hotels are members of the Minotel consortium and many will allow you to enjoy a longer stay on the same basis; pay for two nights and stay for four, for example. You can check this with your chosen hotel when you make your initial reservation.

There are 70 Minotel hotels participating in this offer, all of which are located in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. All the hotels offer top-class comfort and pride themselves on providing a personal service that many larger establishments cannot match. This Friday in The Independent we will print a list of all the participating Minotel hotels with a brief description of each.

Pictured today is Derrydale Hotel in Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland, where a twin or double room will cost you £80 for one night.

How to Qualify

To qualify for your 2 for 1 break, you must collect three differently numbered tokens from the seven we are printing in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday and attach them to the voucher which is printed today. Then follow the booking procedure detailed on this page. Also printed today is the confirmation booking form. You only need to fill this in if you are not paying by credit card. Today we print Token 6; Token 7 will be printed in tomorrow's Independent.



Terms and Conditions

- To participate in our 2 for 1 offer you must collect 3 differently numbered tokens and attach them to a voucher which will be printed on Thursday 12 September along with a confirmation booking form.
- The voucher may be redeemed at any participating Minotel hotel (from the hotel list printed in The Independent on Friday 13 September) for one free night's bed and breakfast for two people in a standard twin or double bedded room when the first night's bed and breakfast is pre-purchased at the price indicated.
- Some hotels, at the proprietor's discretion, will accept the voucher for longer stays on the same basis, so you can stay for 4 nights for the price of 2 for example. Please check with your chosen hotel when making your booking.
- The voucher does not cover payment for any other meals or services that may be requested by the holder and cannot be used with any other offer, saving or discount that may be available at the hotel.
- One child, under the age of 12 years at the time of booking and sharing a room with two adults will be accommodated free of charge but all meals, including breakfast, will be chargeable.
- The descriptions and prices contained in this offer have been supplied by participating hotels. While every effort has been made to ensure their accuracy prior to publication, no responsibility can be taken by Newspaper Publishing plc, Charterhouse Promotions or Minotel for any error, omission or changes that may take place afterwards without notice.
- No bookings will be accepted for Bank holidays or periods.
- All bookings must be made no more than six weeks in advance of your proposed date of arrival.
- Vouchers are valid from 1 October 1996 - 30 April 1997.
- Vouchers must be surrendered on arrival at the hotel and can be used on one occasion only. 11. Photocopies of tokens and vouchers are not acceptable.

Booking Procedure

- All bookings must be made by telephone direct with each individual hotel. Callers must identify themselves as "Independent 2 for 1 voucher holders" as some hotels may have standard or superior rooms available at normal rates when their allocation of 2 for 1 rooms is full.

- All bookings must be pre-paid and reservations can be confirmed over the telephone by credit card holders at most hotels.
- Voucher holders wishing to pay by other methods can make a provisional booking by phone which the hotel will keep open for 48 hours pending receipt of the confirmation booking form and payment which will be acknowledged by the hotel on the day it is received. If you do not receive such an acknowledgement within seven days, you are advised to contact the hotel.
- No shows or cancellations less than 14 days prior to the anticipated date of arrival at the hotel will render the voucher invalid and the holder liable for payment in full for each night booked, including those previously offered free.
- All bookings made under this promotion are subject to availability and to the selected hotel's own terms and conditions, except where those conditions may differ from those in which case these conditions shall prevail.

THE INDEPENDENT
Confirmation Booking Form

Please Note: If you have confirmed your booking by credit card you do not need to use this form to confirm your reservation. Only fill in this form if you wish to pay by other means, after you have made your provisional booking by telephone.

Name of hotel Date of arrival Date of departure
Total number of nights accommodation required
Number of nights to be paid for (1/2 the number above)
@ the price of £ per room per night = £

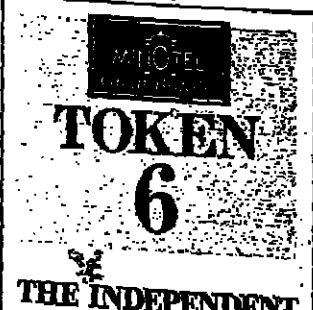
I enclose my cheque no for the above amount

Signed Name
Address Postcode

Tel No:

THE INDEPENDENT
Hotel Breaks: 2 nights for the price of 1 Voucher

The voucher is only valid from 1 October 1996 - 30 April 1997. It is only valid when three differently numbered tokens from The Independent/Independent on Sunday are attached.
Take this voucher with you to your hotel, as it must be surrendered on arrival at the hotel's reception.
The voucher is only redeemable at participating Minotel hotels when presented in line with the terms and conditions as printed in The Independent/Independent on Sunday promotion (7-13 September 1996).





Reuters eloquence speaks volumes to taxman

On the face of it, Reuters has chosen an unnecessarily complicated way of returning money to shareholders with its special dividend share. The more you think about it, however, the cleverer it looks. SBC Warburg, the investment bank that helped draw up the proposal, has an even better word for it. "Eloquent", is how they like to describe it round there. Whether the Inland Revenue finds it quite so clever is another thing.

Over the past three years the Revenue must have lost out to the tune of well over £1bn as a result of the various wheezes the City has dreamt up to enable big tax-exempt shareholders like pension funds to claim a tax credit on any corporate distribution over and above ordinary dividends. First we had the off-market tender offer (Reuters again, that one), then the enhanced scrip dividend, then the share buy-back, or "on-market agency cross" to use the technical jargon. Now there is an even newer technology to add to the armoury, the special dividend share. All these schemes vary a little in their underlying commercial purpose, but the effect is always the same; they enable the big pension funds to claim a 30 per cent tax credit on all the extra money paid out.

You can argue about the morality, the pros and cons, and the mechanics of this until the cows come home, but the basic point remains the same - well over £1bn that would otherwise be lying in the public purse to be spent on such obviously deserving national causes as the Eurofighter and

Britain's burgeoning social security budget, has ended up with City pension fund managers. While many of us might think the pensions industry a rather better home for the money than the less he getting mighty placed off. Sure, the law allows companies to do this. But you can bet your boots they wouldn't be paying out their cash on quite this scale were it not for the fact that the only loser in the process seems to be the poor old Inland Revenue. The law was surely never designed with this eventuality in mind.

The Reuters scheme has added a new dimension to the debate. Reuters claims it would have done a share buy-back but for the fact that American securities law is incompatible with a buy-back that would allow institutions the tax benefits. So it has chosen this route, which has the added attraction of allowing the 37.5p-a-share special distribution to be spread over three years. The other point of the special dividend share is that the extra income becomes divorced from the company, like an annuity or a split capital trust. All very eloquent.

But the real eloquence seems to lie in that area which Reuters is none too keen to trumpet - the way it allows all shareholders, taxable and tax-exempt alike, to benefit from the tax credit. What Reuters is doing is securitising the extra dividends in a special dividend share. When traded, this share can thus be expected to reflect the value of the dividends to a non-tax-paying fund; they

ought to trade somewhere between the gross and the net value of the dividends. As a result ordinary tax-paying shareholders will share in the benefits of non-tax-payers. Mmmm, the men in bowler hats round at Somerset House must be thinking.

Bonuses regardless at Morgan

Many in the City will have a deep and weary understanding of why Deutsche Morgan Grenfell will need to pay millions of pounds in bonuses to its fund management staff early next year.

Like Barings, where ING had to pay bonuses regardless of Nick Leeson's losses, the value of a company such as Morgan Grenfell Asset Management rests not just on brand name and client lists, but on the expertise and contacts of the employees too. The best people will be sitting ducks for poachers if they receive no bonuses when they are due to be paid next February or March.

The purist would none the less argue that no bonuses should be paid, indeed that to pay them merely encourages the lack of collegial responsibility and sloppiness that allowed Peter Young to flourish. Morgan's bonus system is not linked to the short-term performance of individual funds, but is based on a rolling assessment of profits over several years plus a discretionary element for

individual performance. So far, the cost to Deutsche of Peter Young's investment mystery tour is £180m, the amount injected into the funds. That figure represents seven years' profits for the fund management arm, and it is also equivalent to a year's profit for the whole Morgan Grenfell group.

The cost is almost certain to rise, when compensation to investors and regulatory fines are thrown into the pot. On any reasonable view, Morgan Grenfell Asset Management executives should be left without sweeteners until past the millennium. Obviously, that is not going to happen, for if Deutsche were to do this it would soon have no business at all.

All the same Deutsche must be wondering about a system which, though it boasts a collegiate structure of control, has everyone running for the door the moment they are required to take real monetary responsibility for their colleagues' misdeeds.

Twitchy days at the National Grid

Not many complaining days left until Professor Stephen Littlechild decides just how hard to clobber the electricity transmission industry and the boys around at the National Grid are starting to get twitchy.

In their formal response to the Prof's proposed new price controls they have at last managed to generate sufficient rage to utter

the phrase "expropriation". That's more like it. This is the kind of language guaranteed to get institutional shareholders hot under the collar and it has worked.

Funds owning nearly a third of the shares have written to the watchdog warning him to back off otherwise they will tell the Grid to go to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Mobilising shareholder support is now a familiar tactic among regulated monopolies at the wrong end of price reviews. British Gas got Sids to write in by the sackful bleating about Clare Spottiswoode's treatment of TransCo.

Sadly, it had precious little effect on her final proposals. Notwithstanding the higher calibre of the Grid's correspondents, it should not count on doing any better. Even as they stand, the price controls would shave only £4 off the average bill and require annual efficiency gains of no more than 4 per cent. So he is unlikely to be in the mood to make big concessions.

In any event the Grid and the Prof appear to be nudging closer together on valuation and estimates of efficiency gains. True, this is partly down to the depressing effect his initial proposals have had on the Grid's shares. The "market-based" value of it regulated assets, even if both sides agree the telecoms business Energis is worth nothing, is £4bn. The Grid may have less to lose than BT or British Gas from going to the MMC. But it should not count on the threat extracting more than a token concession.

Hanson backs EU works councils

BARRIE CLEMENT and JOJO MOYES

Hanson Group, one of the Conservative Party's biggest financial backers, yesterday ignored the Government's opt-out from the Maastricht Treaty and included British workers in plans for European works councils.

Initially reluctant to establish European-wide systems of consultation for employees, Hanson has decided to create councils in its operating companies before a deadline expires in 10 days. Big multi-nationals must set up such structures by 22 September or face imposition from Brussels.

The opt-out from the treaty would have allowed the company to exclude UK employees, but the board has decided to include them.

All 27 British-based multi-nationals which have so far announced plans for works

councils have failed to take advantage of the escape clause negotiated by John Major. Companies with 1,000 employees in the EU and 150 in two member states have to set up councils.

Referring to a council set up at Hanson Brick, Allan Black, national officer at the GMB general union, said he was pleased the group had "recognised the value of this international dialogue". He said the company had accepted that workers and managers could solve many issues and problems before they arose.

"Works councils are now an established form of industrial relations. The Government can barely continue with their 'opt-out' when Tory flagships such as Hanson are signing Euro deals with the GMB."

According to the conglomerate's latest reports and accounts, a donation of £100,000

was made in the year to last September 1995.

A spokesman for Hanson said that decisions to establish consultation processes under the European directive had been made by individual operating companies. He was unaware that the group had changed its mind on the issue.

In a statement, Hanson Brick said its employee forum would focus principally on the company's performance and overall strategy.

Matters to be discussed might include changes in corporate structure, the economic and financial situation and the competitive position. Also to be revealed at the works council would be important plans for production, sales and employment. Representatives on the council would also be informed about health and safety, training policy, new products and the environment.

Unemployment figures hit five-year low

DIANE COYLE Economics Editor

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit fell by 15,600 in August to the lowest level for more than five years and the summer saw a big increase in employment. Yet underlying earnings growth remained unchanged in July for the sixth month running.

However, unemployment measured by the quarterly

Labour Force Survey, which uses the internationally-accepted definition, showed an increase of 11,000 in the three months to May.

Ministers have not decided whether to accept the recommendation of independent experts to introduce a monthly LFS, according to the Treasury. Meanwhile the divergence between the two unemployment measures left economists divided yesterday about whether

there was any risk of earnings growth picking up soon.

The headline claimant count has fallen for six months running, taking the level of unemployment to 2.1 million and the unemployment rate to 7.5 per cent - both the lowest since March 1991. Employment jumped by 118,000 in the three months to June following a drop of 23,000 during the previous three months.

Three quarters of the new

jobs in April-June were full time, and higher employment in services more than compensated for a small decline in manufacturing.

A further signal of strength in the jobs market was an increase in the number of vacancies at Jobcentres, to the highest for seven-and-a-half years. However, official statisticians warned the level was exaggerated by the introduction of a computer system which had re-

duced the number of job placements.

There was additional comfort about inflation prospects in the latest figure for underlying average earnings growth, which remained at 3.75 per cent.

The pace of increase in manufacturing was unchanged at 4.0 per cent, compared to 4.25 per cent a year earlier. In services it was 3.75 per cent, up from 3.5 per cent the previous month and 2.5 per cent a year earlier.

Future of Co-operative Bank is virtually assured

JILL TREANOR Banking Correspondent

Co-operative Bank, which prides itself on its ethical stance, will close its branches by the end of the century and replace them with booths in which customers will talk to staff through a video-link.

By the end of this year, the bank will have closed 10 per cent of its branches. "It's part of our cost savings, moving

from the old way of banking to the new," said Terry Thomas, managing director.

The bank, wholly owned by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, yesterday said its interim profits were a record £25.1m, up 24 per cent. Mr Thomas believed the closure of 100 or so branches would not lead to redundancies because the staff would be deployed in the bank's expanding telephone banking sector.

A few staff will be needed for the video-links and to visit the new "tardis"-like outlets, of which there are likely to be around 100.

The move to cut costs is part of the Co-op Bank's aim to slash its ratio of costs to income, which at 75 per cent is much higher than other institutions in its sector.

Most other banks are exploring ways to cut costs through branch closures but

the Co-op's plans go one stage further.

All of its 2 million retail customers are given access to telephone banking, and Mr Thomas said the bank was increasing telephone access for its corporate clients.

He became managing director in 1988, at a time when many banks were beginning to face up to the reality of mounting bad debts. His answer was to "go back to basics", pulling

out of mortgage lending and concentrating on selling an ethical approach to banking.

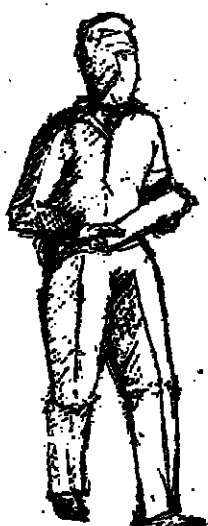
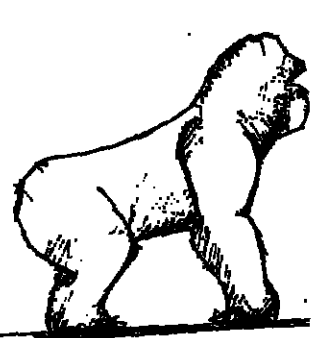
Yesterday the bank launched a national poster campaign to hammer home the message that it takes this approach seriously.

Mr Thomas said the bank recently refused a potentially lucrative account from a big unnamed water company because it was one of the sector's worst polluters.

THE INDEPENDENT

A revolution in the education marketplace

Starting 10th October 1996



ON 10TH OCTOBER 1996, THE INDEPENDENT IS LAUNCHING A PULL-OUT SUPPLEMENT DEDICATED TO EDUCATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION. THE SECTION WILL FOCUS ON ISSUES OF THE DAY AS WELL AS BEING FUN, GOSSIPY AND AN INTERESTING READ. TO FIND OUT MORE OR TO ORDER YOUR COPY PLEASE CALL 0171 293 2298.

"besides the American Express Card, else gets replaced"

Plenty.

When you carry the American Express Charge Card, you take with you the knowledge that you have coverage* for some very important things. Such as compensation for lost or delayed luggage. Coverage for the cost of food and accommodation incurred for scheduled flights that get delayed for four hours or more. 1700 Travel Service locations** worldwide ready to help you with advice and arrangements. Our Global Assist service, which can refer you to an English-speaking doctor or lawyer virtually anywhere in the world, twenty-four hours a day. All these, and many more, designed to replace concern with confidence.

To find out how we can help you do more, call now:

0800 700 767



Cards

*Subject to conditions of cover. Certain exclusions apply. **Complete Travel Service locations of American Express Travel Related Services Company, Inc., its affiliates and representatives worldwide. American Express Services Europe Limited, Reg. Office, Portland House, 1 Long Place, London SW1E 1SP, Reg. No. 1833129.

sport

England's warning to players

Rugby Union

England's defiant international squad have been warned to attend next week's training session after boycotting the first of the season in favour of a meeting called by the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs.

The players will stage a get-together at the end of this week with their clubs' organisation as the internal row rumbles on despite the settlement of the Five Nations feud. They will decide on a policy about future relationships with Twickenham - specifically whether to turn up to next week's training session.

Last week more than 40 players declined to go to Bisham Abbey and the squad session was cancelled. Instead, the squad attended a meeting with Epruc at which they agreed to their employers' "vision for the future". That vision involved "complete independence" from the RFU by First and Second Division clubs.

The RFU, probably reluctantly, allowed the players to get away unpunished with their unique strike action. They may not be so lenient if a second squad session is disrupted.

The RFU secretary, Tony Hallett, said: "I'm expecting them to turn up. I believe Epruc made a serious gesture last time. They wanted to make it clear to us that, where they were talking about a breakaway, they were serious. They are putting a considerable amount of investment into the playing strengths of this country and they want that recognition. We have got to accept it. Contracts for players are due out this week. Clubs don't know, nor do the players, what will be on the table. It's a lot better than last year."

Hallett is also confident about sorting out the Epruc dispute, saying: "The gloves may be off but we are still talking. I don't believe the clubs wish to break

away and I believe most strongly that the players want to play for England, they don't want to be caught in the crossfire."

He admitted that the selectors would choose an England team from outside the top two divisions if the dispute cannot be settled. "In the doomsday scenario, we would have to pick the best that was available in England," he said. "We would have to keep international representative sides going. I don't believe it would ever come to that. There is too much pride, too much heart in playing for England. Most people would play for nothing."

Australia are still hopeful they can resurrect a fixture against England at Twickenham in December. Australia's Rugby Union chief executive, John O'Neill, said he would speak to his English counterparts in a bid to include the match on their European tour schedule.

Australia, who have already scheduled Tests against Ireland, Wales and Scotland during their eight-week European tour, announced on Tuesday that they would play England on 7 December. But the Four Home Unions Tour Committee chairman, Ray Williams, dismissed the announcement, saying it was too late to change the tour schedule. O'Neill, who is keen for the Wallabies to complete their first Grand Slam tour since 1984, said: "The Rugby Football Union has got a meeting on Friday where they are going to consider the matter."

Ireland's match against Australia has been brought forward one week to 23 November. The change in date was made in response to a request from the Welsh Rugby Union for one of the six matches that had been allocated to Ireland for the tour. Ireland surrendered the fixture between Ireland A and the Wallabies on 26 November and in return will have a match against the All Blacks next season.

Canada's icemen cool in front of goal



Team Canada's Claude Lemieux sneaks in behind Team USA's Scott Young to put the puck past the netminder, Mike Richter, during the World Cup in Philadelphia. Canada beat the States 4-3 in overtime in the opening game of the best-of-three finals. Photograph: Mike Blake/Reuters

Wales forgive and forget to include Gibbs and Co

Wales finally forgave the players who turned their backs on rugby union for northern money by including four former league internationals in a squad of 35 announced yesterday.

Swansea's Scott Gibbs and Stuart Evans, David Young of Cardiff and Bath's Richard Webster were all given the chance to

resurrect their international union careers when they were named in the preparation squad for Wales' forthcoming matches against France, Italy, Australia and South Africa. Gibbs, who enjoyed a successful two-year stint at St Helens, last represented Wales in union in 1993.

There was no place, however,

for the former Wigan forward Scott Quinnell or for Jonathan Davies. Quinnell was left on the sidelines after being accused of wanting a guaranteed sum for playing for Wales, over and above that being offered to Welsh Rugby Union contracted players, although he has consistently denied this.

Terry Cobner, the WRU's director of rugby, said: "Contractual negotiations with Scott are on-going and we hope they will be put in place before the match against Australia in November."

Andy Moore, the Richmond scrum-half, who was not available for the Test against the Barbarians last month, is back in the

squad while Cardiff's Steve Ford, the winger, and Emyr Lewis, the flanker, have both been overlooked.

After meeting France, Wales play Italy in Rome on 5 October before entertaining Australia in Cardiff on 15 December and South Africa on 15 December. Squad, Digest, page 27

Welsh are relegated to save red faces

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

South Wales have been relegated from Super League without ever throwing a pass or taking a tackle. The Cardiff-based club were accepted into Super League for next season, subject to conditions on finance and playing strength, only two months ago. But a meeting of the Rugby League Council yesterday reversed that decision by inviting them to compete in the First Division instead.

"From the information they gave us, they would have been doomed to ignominy in Super League," the league's chief executive, Maurice Lindsay, said. "We are concerned about the availability of some of the players they say they are hoping to sign. It would not do the game any good if they were to be sent into oblivion after one season."

The team behind the South Wales club, including the Welsh national coach, Clive Griffiths, were told of the council's decision last night. They will now have to decide whether to swallow the pill, sweetened with an offer of £250,000 to help them build up to the standard needed to win promotion into Super League under their own steam.

The council meeting also agreed a revised allocation of money from News Corporation for next season with Super League and First Division clubs getting slightly more and those in the Second Division marginally less. Apart from the saving involved in South Wales not being in Super League, the league has put extra income from sponsorship and television rights into the pot to keep clubs sweet.

St Helens have officially joined Sheffield in pursuit of Warrington's £1.35m listed (Lestyn Harris). "We are not cash rich, but we would kick ourselves if we missed a chance to sign Lestyn," their chief executive, David Howes, said.

Saints' Apollo Perrelli has become the first winner of the Rugby League Writers Association's player of the year award.

THE INDEPENDENT

FORMULA 1 DREAM TEAM F1 RACING

GRAND PRIX '96 RACE SCHEDULE
Portuguese GP
September 22
Japanese GP
October 13

Overall Top 50 Dream Teams
Thirty-five teams are in joint 1st position with 578 points, fifteen teams are in joint 2nd position with 568 points

- 1 Jumpin' Jacks
- 1 Biblic Racing
- 1 Maddisons
- 1 Crisp One
- 1 The Forty One's
- 1 Elfuletha
- 1 Geezar!
- 1 Equinox
- 1 Farrals
- 1 Gordy's GTs
- 1 Mino's Marauders
- 1 Herb's Flyers
- 1 Dan's Reckless

- 1 Snickley Formula 1
- 1 Pearjurce
- 1 The Dare Devils
- 1 Dream Machines
- 1 Harvey
- 1 God's Son
- 1 Bislard's Bangers
- 1 I'm Alright Jacques
- 1 Bino One
- 1 They Who Dare
- 1 Charlie's Choice
- 1 DSC
- 1 Petrol Heads
- 1 Ward's Wonders
- 1 Bourbon
- 1 Red Rose Racing
- 1 Formula Fantastic
- 1 Players One
- 1 Speed Buggy
- 1 Drive Blind
- 1 Used Rubber
- 2 The Pits
- 2 Pippa's Pole Positioners
- 2 A La Carte
- 2 G R I
- 2 KDS Team Lightning
- 2 Sherbie's Stars
- 2 Sky Clad
- 2 Tony's Omega One
- 2 Robin I
- 2 The Pilkington
- 2 Formula One
- 2 Catch Me Out
- 2 French Flyers
- 2 Panville
- 2 They Think It's All Over F1
- 2 Kwest International

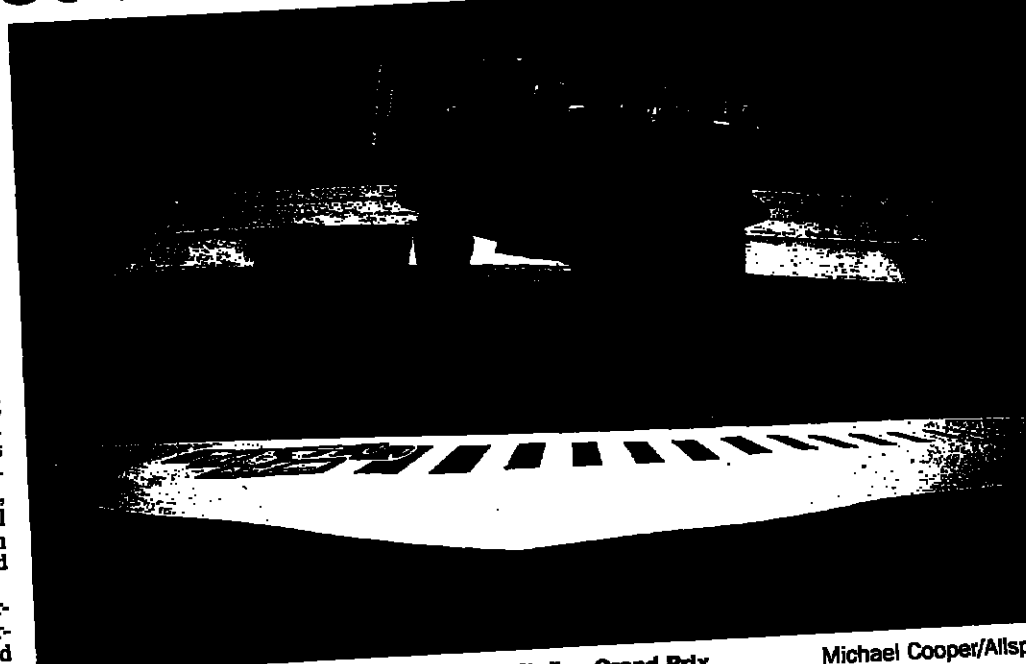
The latest scores and results

Sometimes the script works out perfectly. If there was one race that Michael Schumacher simply had to win to justify his monster salary, it was the Italian Grand Prix at Monza, the annual love-fest for the tifosi, Ferrari's dedicated fans.

Win he did, and the only losers are likely to be the Italian organisers, who face a whopping fine for the inevitable invasion of the track after Schumacher's victory.

There was one other big loser, though: Damon Hill, Formula One's Mr Honest, who gamely admitted that the tyre-clanking incident that spun him out of a comfortable lead was entirely his own fault. The championship remains tantalisingly out of his reach, and Dream Team owners with Hill on board had to be satisfied with the points from pole position and the warm-up.

Further down the field, the two Jordan drivers put in storming performances. Brundle and Barrichello racked up 18 and 17 points respectively. Their determined drives may have been motivated by the fact that both are on one-year contracts with the team, and a certain D. Hill is on the lookout for a comfy seat next year. Pedro Diniz has been loudly proclaiming that he is ready for a drive



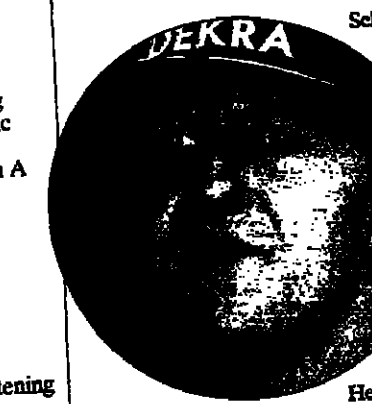
Michael Schumacher reigns supreme at the Italian Grand Prix

ve with a top team, and his impressive run at Monza may indeed have persuaded one or two team managers to look beyond his wallet to the talent that lies behind it. Others to add to previously paltry scores were Tyrrell's Ukyo Katayama and Jos Verstappen in the Arrows. Jos, in particular, will have been glad to see the chequered flag, having been much too inclined to practise high-speed parking with his car in recent races.

The only drivers to collect negative

scores in Italy were Gerhard Berger, whose Benetton succumbed early on to a mysterious electronic gremlin in the gearbox, and Olivier Panis, who had handbrake trouble on the grid and collided with Katayama early in the race.

DRIVER OF THE DAY: MICHAEL SCHUMACHER



Schumi is usually an enthusiastic celebrator of his grand prix victories, but his leaps for joy on the Monza podium suggested relief and the lifting of a burden: this was the one race of the year that he absolutely had to win, Ferrari's dedicated fans took some time to warm to the German, but anyone who wins at Monza in one of the scarlet cars has their place in the fans' hearts for ever more. Now he can safely ask for an even bigger salary to extend his stay with the Maranello team even further.

Schumacher's Dream Team value was £25m. In real life, he is rumoured to be suggesting that £30m would be a suitable wage for his services in 1998. He will be worth every cent.

WIN a drive in a grand prix car

The Dream Team manager with the highest number of points at the end of the Grand Prix Championship season will win our top prize - a drive in a 650bhp F1 car.

You will be flown to the AGS team's training school in the south of France for the most exhilarating experience of your life. The school specialises in F1 courses and provides all the racewear and instruction you will need for a day driving F1 and other single seat cars.

WIN A TRIP TO THE 1997 SPANISH GRAND PRIX
You can enter our Formula 1 Dream Team game at any time during the grand prix season. Even if you don't win our top prize, don't worry, there are still prizes to be won with each grand prix race.

Enter for the Portuguese Grand Prix and you could win a trip to next year's Spanish Grand Prix. Get The Independent on Thursday 19 September for details on how to register.

ITALIAN GRAND PRIX PRIZE WINNER
Congratulations to Paul Andrews from Reading, Berkshire and his team Paul's Pacers. He has won a copy of the new book 'British Grand Prix at Silverstone 1996' signed by the race winner, Jacques Villeneuve, plus tickets to the Motorshow in October.

Grand Prix Shopping List

POINTS SCORED		POINTS SCORED	
DRIVERS	POINTS	CHASSIS	POINTS
1 Michael Schumacher	69	40 Benetton	13
2 Damon Hill	30	41 Williams	10
3 D Hill	7	42 Ferrari	20
4 G Berger	3	43 McLaren	9
5 D Coulthard	1	44 Sauber	0
6 J Villeneuve	6	45 Jordan	13
7 J Villeneuve	6	46 Ligier	8
8 M Hakkinen	20	47 Tyrrell	0
9 R Barrichello	17	48 Arrows	0
10 J Verstappen	7	49 Minardi	2
11 R Barrichello	17	50 Forti	0
12 J Herbert	3		
13 M Salo	0	ENGINES	
14 P Larri	0	51 Renault	16
15 P Diniz	19	52 Ferrari	20
16 K Katayama	7	53 Mercedes	14
17 J Verstappen	7	54 Peugeot	15
18 G Pele	4	55 Mugen	12
19 I Badoer	0	56 Ford V10	0
20 R Rosset	0	57 Yamaha	0
21 A Montemini	0	58 Hart	21
22 G Fisichella	0	59 Ford Zetec V8	0
23 V Sospini	0	60 Ford ED V8	0
24 T Maruara	0		
25 F Lagorce	0		
26 H Noda	0		
27 T Inoue	0		
28 M Blundell	0		
29 J C Boulton	0		
30 K Brack	0		
31 M Davidson	0		
32 E Collard	0		
33 N Portinari	0		
34 D Franchitti	0		
35 N Earti	0		
36 J Magnussen	0		
37 A Prost	0		
38 G Tarquini	0		
39 K Wendlinger	0		

sport

Wilkinson once took the Leeds players underground to observe life in the mines to bring an appreciation of obvious advantages

One opinion that has been held here too long to be lightly dismissed is that managers who put their trust in footballers are asking for trouble. "Play all the angles before they start playing you," is how Brian Clough once put it.

What helped to make Clough a great figure in his time was the understanding that liberty-taking comes naturally to the breed, along with a nose for excuses - the coaching, the tactics, the pitch, team selection, even what is served up for breakfast.

Delayed when returning from abroad, an England player's eyes lit up at the suggestion that it was no way to get ready for a match against Liverpool at Anfield. "I'm working on a coal face," Clough would probably have growled.

As I recall it, Howard Wilkinson once took the Leeds players then under his charge to observe life underground in the coal mines in the hope that it would bring about a greater appreciation of pretty obvious advantages.

Probably, this did not have the desired effect because, from personal experience, footballers, in the main, take their good fortune for granted.

All these things sprang to mind this week when it was announced that Wilkinson's eight-year reign at Elland Road was over. On the evidence of their dismal performance in last season's Coca-Cola Cup final against Aston Villa and subsequent displays in the Premiership, a fairly safe bet is that few if any of the Leeds players considered

themselves in any way responsible for Wilkinson's dismissal.

Thinking back to a conversation I had with Wilkinson shortly after the Wembley disappointment, he may have sensed by then that it was time to think seriously about alternative employment.

It was not simply that football supporters are naturally unforgiving and that directors run out of patience, but that the team had stopped performing for him.

"Daft as it might sound, it got to the point at Wembley where I wished that one of them would hit the referee, start fighting among themselves, anything to show that they were actually interested," I recall him saying.

When those thoughts figured in an interview on these pages, they



KEN JONES

caused quite a stir and, apparently, led to recriminations in the Leeds dressing room.

However you look at these things, the manager, of course, is ultimately responsible. Eight years, even five, is a long time to be hear-

ing one voice, and in Wilkinson's case it had reached the point where either he got himself a new team or the team would get itself a new manager. That Wilkinson was unforgivingly honest and in touch with wider realities did not come into the equation.

Ironically, Wilkinson's replacement, George Graham, had begun to experience something similar at Arsenal before he was called to account in a "bung" inquiry, sacked and then suspended from football for 12 months. The methods Graham had employed to win five major trophies in eight years, including two championships, were beginning to creak along with the legs of ageing players. An unavoidable impression was that Arsenal found Graham's indiscretions convenient.

Still, slapping managers around with consummate disrespect has not made it unpopular with the masses. It is not that long ago since many Manchester United supporters would have gladly seen the back of Alex Ferguson, who has since established himself as one of the truly great club managers, in the mould of Clough, Jock Stein, Sir Matt Busby, Bill Shankly, Bill Nicholson and Don Revie. Likewise, Everton supporters were howling for Howard Kendall's head before he went on to win the championship.

It has to be said that Wilkinson made mistakes, especially when signing players who never came up to expectations. There was a lot of tinkering with the system and, over the last couple of seasons, too

many team changes. Winning the championship just two seasons after Leeds returned to the top flight probably worked against Wilkinson in that it brought about an untimely upsurge of expectation.

Shortly before that success was achieved, I came across Wilkinson at the Cheltenham Spring Festival. He was with two Leeds directors, one of whom said: "You are speaking to the best manager in the business." Wilkinson had already raised Leeds from the ruins of the post-Revie era.

This week the curtain came down for him at Elland Road just five matches into the season. Nothing new in this, but it is getting more and more difficult to be light-hearted about a game for children.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Leicestershire are two wins away from their first title for 21 years. Jon Culley reports

Whitaker enjoying the mind games

The question was designed to be provocative and it had the desired effect on the Leicestershire captain. Must it not be a poor Championship if his side can win?

"I don't think it is a fair comment," James Whitaker said, "but I can see why people might make it."

"They look at the players we have and they don't see big names, so they wonder how we can be doing so well. But what they do not see is a team."

"I don't think any of the other counties would begrudge us the title. All the counties we have beaten have beaten handsomely, including sides with five or six internationals, and, of the six draws, three were dictated by the weather."

"We have used only 13 players and everyone has won us a game, in one way or another. Alan Mullally's talent has been recognised at last and there are not many batsmen who look forward to taking on David Mills, even at 30. And the contribution of Phil Simmons, as a bowler, batsman and slip fielder, has been immeasurable."

Simmons, the West Indian all-rounder, signed a new two-year contract yesterday amid high optimism at Grace Road. Two more handsome victories and Leicestershire, with a lead of one point as they begin the penultimate round against Durham at Chester-le-Street today, will carry off the title for the first time since Ray Illingworth led them to it in 1975.

It may be an omen that the

present captain is another Yorkshireman, as is the manager, Jack Birkenshaw, who was a member of Illingworth's side. But the notion that this is a success driven by a couple of hard-nosed northerners would also be less than accurate.

Birkenshaw's roots are unmistakable but the harsher edges of Whitaker's vowels have long since been smoothed

To see people performing above their own expectations makes me very proud

away. His family, chocolate makers from Skipton, sent James to Uppingham School in Leicestershire.

Nor is there much of the blunt intransigence of the regional stereotype. In conversation, Whitaker constructs his comments thoughtfully, revealing sensitivity and perceptiveness, particularly so in matters concerning the psychology of the game, which has been a key element in his first season as captain.

"Don't get me wrong, I'm not a Mike Brearley," he said. "But I have always been interested in how to focus the mind in certain ways."

"It is an area we neglect in English cricket. Sport is 90 per cent in the brain, isn't it? And 10 per cent technique. So what do we do with English cricketers? We spend 90 per cent of the time on batting and bowling technique and we never - or hardly ever - practise what goes through our minds. Surely you must practise that as well?"

At Whitaker's instigation, Leicestershire have. Mental preparation has become as important as catching practice.

"As an example," he said, "we now go to an away ground the afternoon before the match, have a couple of hours practice, unpack and get ready for the event taking place the following day."

"In the past, though we might travel the day before, we would not be together in an organised way until the morning."

"And we have a team meeting on the Wednesday night. We have talked games through every time and it has helped create a sense of everyone being involved. If they feel more part of it, that they are contributing, then it helps their performance, surely?"

This togetherness is evident on the field, where Leicestershire celebrate each wicket by forming a huddle, an act which has now become part of the team ethic. "It started as a bit of fun," Whitaker said, "but it is useful as a way of reinforcing. I like to be pro-active, to be reviewing what is happening the whole time rather than letting the game drift, and this helps



James Whitaker hopes to end his first season as Leicestershire captain in style

Photograph: Peter Jay

keep everyone aware of what they are trying to do."

Alongside this collectivism, Whitaker has also preached individual responsibility, discussing personal targets with each player. Bowlers are encouraged to think for themselves in setting fields, batters to balance their own interests with those of the team. "I believe that almost anybody play-

ing first-class cricket is capable of getting 10, 15, even 25 per cent more out of themselves, given the right climate and direction," he said.

"This is what we have tried to do and, although there were a few raised eyebrows at the start, I think the players have responded positively. I was always confident that, given a fair break with injuries, we could

bow people out and that if we could get 10 or 15 per cent more out of the batsmen we could be a force. I knew that guys like Darren Maddy, Ben Smith and Vince Wells were capable players. It was just a matter of convincing them they could express themselves in a confident way."

In no one has this been more starting than Wells, the former jack of all trades who has three

times made double hundreds, getting out on 197 on another. "But these things do not happen unless someone is prepared to put the time and effort into communication," Whitaker said. "To see people performing above their own expectations makes me proud. If we can now win two more and take the title, my first year in the job will have been perfect."

Championship top five and remaining fixtures

	P	W	D	L	Net	Run	Wicket
Leeds (7)	15	8	1	6	49	53	248
Surrey (12)	15	8	1	6	45	56	247
Derbyshire (14)	15	8	2	5	48	50	242
Essex (15)	15	8	3	4	59	52	241
Kent (16)	15	8	2	6	43	44	233

LEICESTERSHIRE: Today: Durham (h), 19 Sept; Warwickshire (h), 20 Sept; Gloucestershire (h), 21 Sept.

DERBYSHIRE: Today: Warwickshire (h), 19 Sept; Durham (h), 20 Sept; Gloucestershire (h), 21 Sept.

ESSEX: Today: Surrey (h), 19 Sept; Gloucestershire (h), 20 Sept; Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

KENT: Today: Hampshire (h), 19 Sept; Gloucestershire (h), 20 Sept; Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

GLoucestershire (h), 20 Sept; Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.

Warwickshire (h), 21 Sept.



FANTASY FOOTBALL

Check your team scores every Wednesday and Sunday

PHILIPS

Let's make things better

THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

Mullally takes aim at his third ambition

Alan Mullally returns to the Leicestershire side today having already achieved two of his ambitions for the season but aware that pulling off the last may be the most difficult, writes Jon Culley.

The lanky left-arm England pace bowler was determined his ability would be recognised with a Test cap this year, followed by a place on the winter tours. The second wish was granted on Tuesday when he was named in

the party for Zimbabwe and New Zealand. However, clinching the third goal - the Championship - may be trickier.

Ahead by only one point going into the penultimate round, Leicestershire know that a maximum haul against Durham at Chester-le-Street, starting today, and then Middlesex at Grace Road next week would guarantee a first title since 1975.

The race is open enough still for Surrey, Derbyshire and Es-

sex to view their prospects with similar optimism. Kent, though 15 points behind Leicestershire, remain in the hunt and even Yorkshire, while no longer holding a realistic chance, are mathematical contenders.

Mullally signed a new three-year contract yesterday and his return, fully rested, gives Leicestershire's captain, James Whitaker, a full hand, provided there are none who succumb to a flu bug doing the rounds at Grace Road.

Stuart Law, the Australian all-rounder, is back to aid the Essex challenge (they play at home to Sussex, then Glamorgan) after helping Australia reach the Singer Cup final in Sri Lanka, but his strike bowler Neil Williams is out with a thigh injury.

Derbyshire, who finish at home to Durham, hope first to emulate Surrey and Essex in thrashing the outgoing champions, Warwickshire, at Derby.

Redgrave backs Olympic push

Steven Redgrave, still debating whether to extend his own Olympic career, yesterday called upon the public to support a British bid for the Games.

Speaking at the launch of a four-year, £5m investment in British sport by Barclaycard, the 38-year-old rower identified hosting the Olympics as the factor most likely to improve Britain's sporting standards. "An Academy of Sport would be very good, but having the Olympics would push us forward more than anything," he said.

He agreed with the British Olympic Association's policy of not bidding for the 2004 Games - "It would not give us enough time to set things up properly" - and backed the

Mike Rowbottom hears a British Olympic hero point the way forward

option of campaigning for the 2008 Games, if necessary as a prelude to a further bid for the Olympics of 2012.

"Our 10, 11 and 12-year-olds today are the ones who would be winning medals in 2012," he said. "If they can be brought up in the atmosphere of a national campaign for the Games, and if there is a good support structure in place, there is no reason why we couldn't win a lot of medals."

Redgrave is struggling over whether he should seek a fifth gold medal four years hence, at the age of 42. His reaction in the aftermath of his Olympic victory

in Atlanta - "If anyone sees me going near another boat, they have my permission to shoot me" - may yet give way to a subsequent request: "Hold your fire." A decision is likely to be reached in the next couple of months, he says, and a pending chat with his coach, Jürgen Grobler, will be a crucial factor. "I don't want to look back in 10 years time and think I left the sport too early. I'm very tempted to go to Sydney. In four years I feel I could still be good enough."

Should Redgrave seek one last hurrah, he will be adequately funded. Most Britons further

down the sporting scale could not say the same, but yesterday's deal, which has been nearly two years in the making, is aimed at supporting the lower tiers.

The £5m will be divided roughly equally over three areas - equipping and training club volunteers, providing monthly cash awards of £10,000 to outstanding performers which will be given to a local sports club of the winner's choice, and a support programme aimed at the 2000 Olympics.

The latter programme will provide annual grants of around £2,000-£3,000 for competitors just below the elite level, which is currently receiving the bulk of the Sports Aid Foundation grants as part of the Top 100 club.

Beck's mediocrity WARNING.

See tomorrow's paper

TO BECOME A TOP GERMAN FOOTBALLER IS A PAINFUL PROCESS. FIRST YOU MUST PASS YOUR TYRE ENGINEERING EXAMS.

Continental

GERMAN ENGINEERING WHERE YOU NEED IT MOST ON A CAR.

OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF THE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Rude reminders of the reality of life in Europe

Before their Uefa Cup first round games, Britain's representatives went through the formalities of warning that "there are no easy matches any more". A set of results which put into perspective the top of the league being Europe's top league meant it was back to "it's only half-time in this tie" yesterday.

In the case of Arsenal, beaten 3-2 by Borussia Mönchengladbach, that is likely to sound like so much straw-clutching come the second leg in Cologne on 24 September. Stewart Houston, linked with Leeds but still holding the fort for Arsène Wenger, rated Arsenal's performance their worst in Europe during his time there.

Tony Adams, who has not played for the club since January because of injury, may make the return game, although Dennis Bergkamp could be absent with a hamstring strain. Welcome as Adams' leadership would be, the quality most conspicuous by its absence was the blend of invention and industry displayed by Stefan Effenberg.

The 28-year-old midfielder, for whom Wenger is reportedly ready to pay £1m, did not rule out a move to Highbury. "Whatever happens, I'll stay at Mönchengladbach for the rest of the season," he said. "But everything is open and I'll discuss the situation with my wife [who is also his agent] in December."

While the Aston Villa manager, Brian Little, is not given to bravado, he had publicly anticipated that their fitness and pace would tell in the last 15 minutes against their part-time opponents from Sweden. Instead,

Evans urges Reds to go for goals

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, has told his players that he wants a return to the days when English sides thrashed their foreign opposition out of sight.

Evans is setting a target of "as many goals as possible" against the Finnish part-timers, MyPa-47, in today's Cup Winners' Cup first round first leg tie in Anfield.

The club paid for failing to score home or away against Broudy last season, so Evans is aware of the problem going to Scandinavia.

Phil Shaw reflects on a night of mixed fortunes for British clubs in the Uefa Cup

er happens, I'll stay at Mönchengladbach for the rest of the season," he said. "But everything is open and I'll discuss the situation with my wife [who is also his agent] in December."

While the Aston Villa manager, Brian Little, is not given to bravado, he had publicly anticipated that their fitness and pace would tell in the last 15 minutes against their part-time opponents from Sweden. Instead,

Evans urges Reds to go for goals

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, has told his players that he wants a return to the days when English sides thrashed their foreign opposition out of sight.

Evans is setting a target of "as many goals as possible" against the Finnish part-timers, MyPa-47, in today's Cup Winners' Cup first round first leg tie in Anfield.

The club paid for failing to score home or away against Broudy last season, so Evans is aware of the problem going to Scandinavia.

Evans urges Reds to go for goals

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, has told his players that he wants a return to the days when English sides thrashed their foreign opposition out of sight.

Evans is setting a target of "as many goals as possible" against the Finnish part-timers, MyPa-47, in today's Cup Winners' Cup first round first leg tie in Anfield.

The club paid for failing to score home or away against Broudy last season, so Evans is aware of the problem going to Scandinavia.

Evans urges Reds to go for goals

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, has told his players that he wants a return to the days when English sides thrashed their foreign opposition out of sight.

Evans is setting a target of "as many goals as possible" against the Finnish part-timers, MyPa-47, in today's Cup Winners' Cup first round first leg tie in Anfield.

The club paid for failing to score home or away against Broudy last season, so Evans is aware of the problem going to Scandinavia.

Le Saux tells Blackburn to back Harford

Græme Le Saux, the England full-back, insists the Blackburn players are determined to ease the pressure on their manager, Ray Harford.

Rovers' dismal start to the season - one point from a possible 15 - has made Harford a strong contender to become the latest managerial casualty.

However, Harford has stressed this week that he has no intention of quitting - and he can count on the support of his players as he tries to restore confidence in the wake of Alan Shearer's £15m departure to Newcastle.

Le Saux said: "We are right behind Ray and it is up to the players to pull together.

We have the ability and the spirit to pull the club out of the lowly position it currently occupies."

But despite the backing of his players, Harford's search for a replacement for Shearer has become increasingly urgent.

Rovers have only managed three goals in five games and Harford, who has run checks on Oliver Bierhoff - Germany's Euro 96 final "golden goal" hero - knows he needs to bring in a high-profile striker.

Italian magistrates yesterday ordered video footage of Internazionale's Serie A match against Udinese to be seized after a lawyer took legal action against an Inter player whose tackle broke an opponent's leg.

Magistrates said the seizure was a formality after the Udinese lawyer, Roberto Cianci, filed a formal complaint against defender Salvatore Presi for a tackle on Udinese midfielder Giovanni Stroppa last Saturday.

Stroppa, a former Italian international, has been ruled out for at least 40 days after the seventh-minute foul. Presi escaped with a booking for the straight-legged tackle.

Cianci said on Tuesday that his legal action against Presi was a private initiative but added that he had spoken to Udinese officials about it and they had not objected.

Ten Udinese fans, meanwhile, threatened their own legal action against Presi, saying they had bought season tickets purely to watch Stroppa and now felt cheated.

"I want to raise the problem as a matter of principle. We will try and resolve once and for all whether behaviour of a criminal nature on the pitch can be punished by the ordinary magistrates," Cianci was quoted as saying.

Newspapers quoted the Inter president, Massimo Moratti, yesterday as saying the legal action was "in many ways absurd" and urging Cianci to tone down his rhetoric.

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball



Felix Mantilla of Spain serves during his defeat by Mariano Zabaleta at Bournemouth yesterday. Photograph: David Ashdown

Henman may play in Davis Cup

Tennis

Tim Henman, the British No 1, will give his nagging groin injury a thorough test at Wimbledon on Monday to see whether he will be fit to face Egypt in the Davis Cup next week.

The tie, which starts on 20 September, will be the last competitive match on the No 1 Court at Wimbledon before it is demolished.

Henman, who reached the last 16 of the United States Open, was forced to drop out of the Bournemouth International Open this week because of the injury at the top of his left leg, but he made a visit to the West Hants Club yesterday and said: "I would be very disappointed if I were to miss the tie."

"I've been having treatment twice a day since I returned from the US Open - icing, ultra-sound and stretching. I will test it at Wimbledon on Monday, hit a few balls and see how it goes. At the moment I'm very hopeful. I think I will be playing but you are never 100 per cent sure."

"The injury is just a case of wear and tear after a long season, and the rest should do some good. I don't know how much good because, for the last week, I have not been doing anything, just visiting family and friends."

David Lloyd, the team captain, announced yesterday that, if Henman is fit, the team would be Henman, Greg Rusedski, Mark Petchey and Neil Broad. The recall of Rusedski would then be the only change to the team who beat Ghana 5-0 in Accra in the last round. The Canadian-born left-hander was injured for that tie and was replaced by Luke Milligan.

The big surprise at Bournemouth yesterday came when the 18-year-old Argentinean Mariano Zabaleta beat the second seed, Felix Mantilla of Spain, 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 to reach the quarter-finals.

The Centre Court match lasted for two hours and 13 minutes, and Zabaleta, the world junior champion, showed outstanding courage in beating an opponent ranked at No 16 in the world.

Zabaleta won the opening set of a long baseline duel, then broke the Spaniard in the first game of the second set. But then the wheels came off and Mantilla won nine of the next 10 games to lead 3-0 in the third.

The young Argentinean, who has climbed from No 380 in the world rankings to No 125 in the last nine months, looked down and out but battled back to win five of the last six games.

Zabaleta had a bit of luck when Mantilla led 4-3 and reached break point on his rival's serve in the following game. Here Mantilla had a forehand drive called out - which would have given the Spaniard a 5-3 lead - only for the umpire to overrule the call.

Rusedski and Danny Sapsford, Britain's last two survivors in the singles, are not due to play their second round matches until today.

Streak strikes for Zimbabwe

Sri Lanka 290-7 v Zimbabwe

Heath Streak dismissed Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lankan captain, and Romesh Kaluwitharana in the space of three balls to give Zimbabwe the initiative on the first day of the first Test in Colombo.

After electing to bat on a grass pitch, Sri Lanka were reduced to 4 for 2 before Ranatunga and Kaluwitharana shared a partnership of 142 for the sixth wicket. Streak then swung the game back towards

the second new ball and quickly accounted for both batsmen.

Sri Lanka won the toss and elected to bat first. Zimbabwe's first innings was a one-sided affair, with Streak taking 4-42 in 10 overs.

Streak's first over was a masterpiece, with the new ball swinging in and out of the pitch to cause havoc for the Sri Lankan batsmen.

Ranatunga and Kaluwitharana shared a partnership of 142 for the sixth wicket, but Streak's second over was equally devastating, with the new ball swinging in and out of the pitch to cause havoc for the Sri Lankan batsmen.

Streak's third over was a masterpiece, with the new ball swinging in and out of the pitch to cause havoc for the Sri Lankan batsmen.

Streak's fourth over was a masterpiece, with the new ball swinging in and out of the pitch to cause havoc for the Sri Lankan batsmen.

Streak's fifth over was a masterpiece, with the new ball swinging in and out of the pitch to cause havoc for the Sri Lankan batsmen.

Streak's sixth over was a masterpiece, with the new ball swinging in and out of the pitch to cause havoc for the Sri Lankan batsmen.

Streak's seventh over was a masterpiece, with the new ball swinging in and out of the pitch to cause havoc for the Sri Lankan batsmen.

Streak's eighth over was a masterpiece, with the new ball swinging in and out of the pitch to cause havoc for the Sri Lankan batsmen.

Streak's ninth over was a masterpiece, with the new ball swinging in and out of the pitch to cause havoc for the Sri Lankan batsmen.

Streak's tenth over was a masterpiece, with the new ball swinging in and out of the pitch to cause havoc for the Sri Lankan batsmen.

Streak's eleventh over was a masterpiece, with the new ball swinging in and out of the pitch to cause havoc for the Sri Lankan batsmen.

Streak's twelfth over was a masterpiece, with the new ball swinging in and out of the pitch to cause havoc for the Sri Lankan batsmen.

Streak's thirteenth over was a masterpiece, with the new ball swinging in and out of the pitch to cause havoc for the Sri Lankan batsmen.

Streak's fourteenth over was a masterpiece, with the new ball swinging in and out of the pitch to cause havoc for the Sri Lankan batsmen.

Streak's fifteenth over was a masterpiece, with the new ball swinging in and out of the pitch to cause havoc for the Sri Lankan batsmen.

Streak's sixteenth over was a masterpiece, with the new ball swinging in and out of the pitch to cause havoc for the Sri Lankan batsmen.

O'Sullivan ties up Robidoux

Snooker

Ronnie O'Sullivan admitted that he felt under greater pressure than normal after beating his Canadian rival Alain Robidoux 5-4 in the last 16 of the £230,000 Snooker Asian Classic in Thailand yesterday.

There has been no love lost between the pair since Robidoux accused O'Sullivan of playing "disrespectful" for being a sequence of one-handed shots during their meeting at the world championship in April.

After recording a 10-3 victory at Sheffield, O'Sullivan responded that he could beat Robidoux "one-handed" and immediately made himself a target for any subsequent remark.

"It was a funny game and I felt strange because of what happened at Sheffield," said O'Sullivan, who played every shot conventionally yet still came within three pots of defeat.

O'Sullivan put together breaks of 86, 56 and 94 on the way to building a 4-2 lead but Robidoux stole the seventh frame on the black before drawing level at 4-4.

The deciding frame came down to the colours before a relieved O'Sullivan potted blue and pink to fall over the line.

"You've got to look at things in a positive way. I played well below my best and still won so that's got to be regarded as a plus," said O'Sullivan, who now faces Peter Ebdon in the quarter-finals.

Ebdon, who had a 5-1 victory over the Welsh left-hander Mark Williams, needs to negotiate one more round to overtake John Higgins into second place in the provisional rankings.

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

SPORTING DIGEST

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

Baseball

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Yorkshire v Worcestershire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

NEW REDUCED RATE

Could our new reduced rate save you money?

Look at the table opposite and see if our lowest rate ever could save you money on an unsecured Personal Loan when compared to those offered by some of our competitors. Applications are welcome from anyone aged 24 or over and earning in excess of £10,000 p.a.

14.9% APR ON PERSONAL LOANS FROM £500 TO £4,999. 12.9% APR ON PERSONAL LOANS FROM £5,000 TO £10,000.

For generally available unsecured Personal Loans, loans for business or timeshare purposes are excluded. *Typical example: If you borrow £4,000 over 48 months at 14.9% APR the monthly repayment is £109.38 and the total amount payable is £5,250.24. This offer is not available to residents of the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. A written quotation of our credit terms is available on request. All loans are subject to status. You must be 24 years or over and in receipt of a regular income in excess of £10,000 p.a. For your security and to help improve our service to you, we may record or monitor calls to and from Hamilton Direct Bank, a division of HFC Bank plc, an authorised institution under the Banking Act 1987. Registered Office: North Street, Winkfield, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 4TD. Registered in England No. 117305.

Hamilton Direct Bank

Hamilton Direct Bank

Hamilton Direct Bank

PERSONAL LOANS

FROM JUST 12.9% APR

OUR LOWEST RATE EVER

Hamilton Direct Bank

Hamilton Direct Bank

Hamilton Direct Bank

Hamilton Direct Bank

Hamilton Direct Bank

TYPICAL EXAMPLE

A LOAN OF £5,000

APR 12.9%

Hamilton Direct Bank

Hamilton Direct Bank

Hamilton Direct Bank

Hamilton Direct Bank

Hamilton Direct Bank

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Yorkshire v Worcestershire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Worcestershire v Yorkshire

SPORT

Venables rules out a return to QPR

Football

Queen's Park Rangers must continue their search for a new manager, after Terry Venables pledged his future to Portsmouth to end speculation that he could make a dramatic return to Loftus Road.

Venables had been touted as a possible successor to Ray Wilkins, but admitted he is happy with his new post as director of football at Fratton Park. The former England coach, who took QPR to an FA Cup final in 1982 and the Second Division title the following season, said: "You won't be seeing me turn up at Loftus Road in the next couple of days. As far as I am concerned, it is business as normal - and business as usual for me is Portsmouth Football Club."

"I am happy doing what I am doing with them. It's a nice club, a nice area and there are a lot of nice people."

Portsmouth's chairman, Martin Gregory, who asked Venables to take on an advisory role to assist the Portsmouth manager, Terry Fenwick, last month, is the son of the former QPR chairman Jim Gregory - who appointed Venables as manager at Loftus Road in 1980.

Venables' decision leaves the QPR owner, Chris Wright, still searching for the right man to try and take the London club back into the Premiership at the first time of asking.

Wright said: "We have seen one or two people, but the current managerial merry-go-round has changed the picture. Someone we thought might be available isn't and someone we thought wasn't available is. I'd like to have someone in place before the weekend, but I don't think we'll get there. We are working as swiftly as we possibly can, but we've got to make sure we get the right person."

With Venables counting himself out of the running and Ray Harford continuing to fight for his job at Blackburn, the QPR spotlight has fallen on Charlton's manager, Alan Curbishley. However, QPR's London First Division rivals warned that it will prove expensive if they try to recruit Curbishley.

Charlton's executive director Jonathan Fuller said yesterday:

"We have had no approach from QPR and would not welcome one. Alan has three years left on his contract with us and we also have him still registered as a player. So if he went, we would demand a considerable fee as compensation."

But Fuller admitted: "We wouldn't stand in his way if he made it clear he wanted to go, but that has not happened and, hopefully, it won't."

Charlton's vice-chairman and managing director, Richard Murray, who has held the financial power at The Valley since Roger Alwen stepped down as chairman, said: "I have heard the speculation that Alan is on QPR's short-list, but if they approached us for him I would strenuously resist it." Murray refused to put a price on Curbishley's services but the figure could be as much as £1m and he confirmed: "If QPR want him and he wants to go it will cost a considerable amount."

Curbishley, the former West Ham and Birmingham midfielder, is not commenting on the possibility of a move to Loftus Road. After taking Charlton off the bottom of the table with a 2-0 win at home to Southend on Tuesday night, he said: "It is not a fair question to put to me, although I have been flattered to be linked in the newspapers with the vacancies at both QPR and Manchester City."

Meanwhile, coaches Frank Sibley and John Hollins, the former Chelsea manager, remained in caretaker-charge of Rangers for last night's game at Norwich.

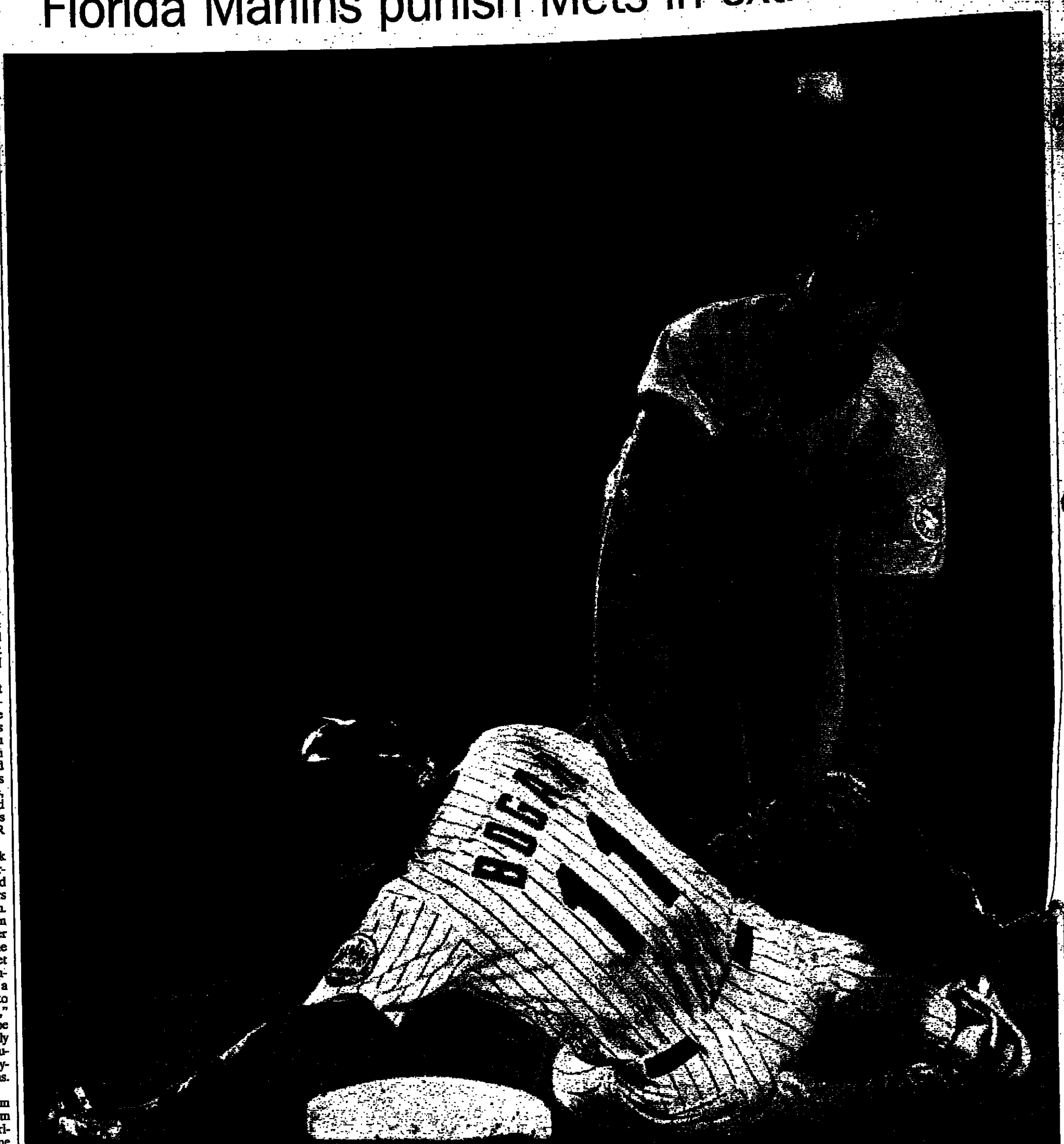
Slaven Bilic, the Croatian international, is thinking over his future with West Ham. The 28-year-old defender, a target for Tottenham, says he is considering West Ham's offer of a new contract. "It is too early to say what the conclusion will be," said Bilic. "But I think and hope I will stay here. I am completely happy at West Ham. I have a superb relationship with the players, the manager and the fans. But you never know."

Bilic, who cost West Ham £1.3m when he joined them from the German side Karlsruhe last February, has become a huge favourite at Upton Park. He helped West Ham finish in the top 10 in the Premiership last season then starred in Euro 96 for Croatia.

WHITAKER ENJOYING THE MIND GAMES

Leicestershire's canny captain talks to Jon Culley

Florida Marlins punish Mets in extra innings



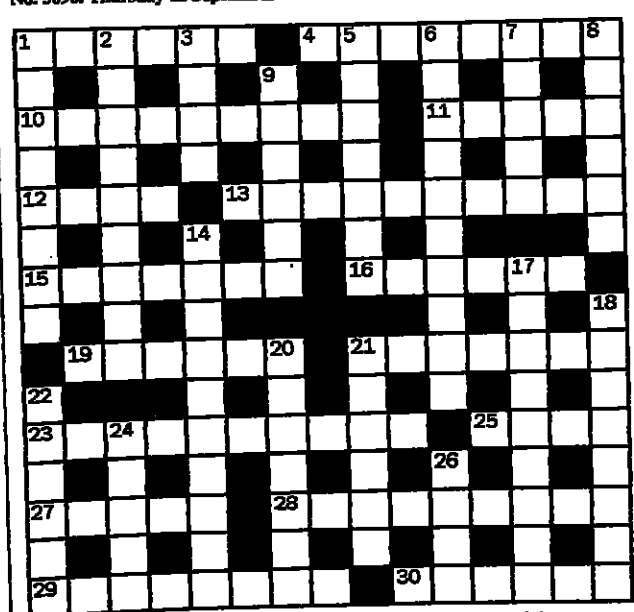
Down and out: Tim Bogar's slide into second base is in vain, with Kurt Abbott of the Florida Marlins catching him short before sending the ball on its way in an attempt to complete a double play against the New York Mets at Shea Stadium, New York. Florida won the National League game, which went to an extra innings, 9-3. Photograph: AP

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3098, Thursday 12 September

By Phil

Wednesday's Solution



ACROSS

- 1 Old pennies used in transaction to get lumber (6)
- 4 Warning accurately reproduced about name implicated in court action? (8)
- 10 Trick right to be kept back: challenge's to come up again (9)
- 11 Display arrives, being brought to a yard (5)
- 12 Request necessary to bring in the French (4)
- 13 Hurry up and revive the housing market! (3,1,4,2)
- 15 Specially adapted group of organisms cope (yet with difficulties) (7)
- 16 One getting stuck into booze shows a defensive position (6)
- 19 Everyone in the German city (6)
- 21 Slagheap, say, certainly produced by suit from mine at-

DOWN

- 23 Sound men banished without hesitation? That's not called for! (10)
- 25 Is aim direct? (4)
- 27 Composer - little change in French one (5)
- 28 Pottery provides fresh article in ladder (9)
- 29 Cutters from US state (one's gold on board) (8)
- 30 Contemptible sailor, caught in a stream of water (6)
- 1 Wait on convict escaping from keep (5)
- 8 Year in Conservative circle will provoke wailing (6)
- 9 Skin disease going round English riding-school (6)
- 14 Please, in any possible way (2,3,5)
- 17 Fardon one taking rat in river (9)
- 18 Exhausted policeman finds it dull (8)
- 20 Provide backing for trail going around lowest parts of Appalachians (7)
- 21 US city midway between East and West until this time (6)
- 22 Public transport businesses losing heart (6)
- 24 Arab, one attending University in dismal surroundings (5)
- 26 Rosemary, say, or some other bird (4)

Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford.

Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01938 840171.

Thursday 12 September 1996

Registered in a company with the Post Office

Lee angered by talk of lost City investments

Manchester City's chairman, Francis Lee, has rejected claims that the club missed out on a possible £70m infusion of Arab oil money because he would not release enough information on the state of the club's finances.

City, struggling to recover from relegation to the First Division, have been constantly linked with takeover speculation. Reports suggested that two oil-rich princes were said to be ready to pump up to £70m into the club but that their financial advisors broke off discussions, accusing Lee of failing to produce the necessary information.

Lee insists he is not at fault. "It's important when you negotiate with someone on these matters that you know who is ultimately going to take the interest in the club and I have never been assured of that," he said.

"When I find out a name, or I am given one, I will release information. We think we are

handling everything in the correct way and we do it through our lawyers."

Lee said that over the past 18 months or so he had talks with half a dozen people who wanted to invest in the club. Having signed letters of confidentiality, none of them had come back with firm offers. Neither had they said what type of money they were talking of investing in the club.

"Unfortunately, one of these people who has signed a confidentiality letter keeps spouting off and he's completely out of order. If anyone has anything which is beneficial to Manchester City I will listen," Lee said.

"It is normal procedure to exchange letters of confidentiality when you speak to people but in this case, and one other case, people have broken that confidence."

"It's really disappointing but if anyone wants to invest in the club I will certainly be willing to

listen providing it's done in the proper manner."

"One thing that does rile me is when I read that we are £20m in debt and nearly bankrupt. That is a load of rubbish."

Dave Bassett, the manager of Crystal Palace, said yesterday he had not been approached by City about the vacant manager's job. City, still searching for a replacement for Alan Ball, are reported to have turned their attention to Bassett after Sheffield United refused permission for them to approach Howard Kendall.

Bassett, Kendall's predecessor at Bramall Lane, said: "No one from Manchester City has spoken to me about the job there. All I've heard is the hype. People are saying I'm on their short list but I'm not interested in that because it's all hypothetical."

"It's a case of crossing bridges as they arise. If Manchester City speak to me, I've got something to talk about."

Wenger's successor lined up

Messages crossing the Pacific could deliver comfort to Arsenal. Carlos Queiroz, the coach of the US Major League club New York/New Jersey MetroStars, said yesterday he had been the manager's job by the Japanese club Grampus Eight.

If the Portuguese coach accepted, that could clear the way for Arsene Wenger to pack his bags and fly from Nagoya to London to take on the task of managing Arsenal.

As Wenger's arrival is awaited, a winger who left Highbury could be making another move. Bolton want to take the Swede

Anders Limpar on loan from Everton with a view to signing him to aid their campaign to return to the Premiership.

Manchester City, similarly striving to go straight back up, have signed the former Nottingham Forest centre-back Darren Wassall on a month's loan from Derby.

Leicester City have won a claim for damages against another of the promotion contenders, Wolves, over their withdrawal from the transfer of goalkeeper Zeljko Kalac. A Football League commission found that Wolves had agreed to

sign Steve Corica and Kalac for a combined fee of £1.75m, subject to obtaining work permits, but then only took Corica. The commission ordered Wolves to pay Leicester £250,000 in damages for breach of contract.

A similar contract wrangle in Scotland has resulted in Raith Rovers making Iain Munro their new manager in succession to Tommy McLean, after St Mirren claimed he had joined them as manager on Tuesday - even though no contract had been signed. McLean left Raith to join Dundee United after only a week in charge.

MORSE

Closing Open Systems.



The Internet is the most open system of all. When you choose to use it for serious business applications, keeping your data hidden from intruders is vital.

For developing Internet systems, Oracle and Sun are a powerful combination. They have a partnership called "ICE" - Internet Centric Excellence - which they are using to help businesses use the Web. The task of implementing systems and keeping them safe from prying eyes is ours.

Call to speak to a consultant, and for our Executive Briefing on Internet security.



Morse Computers 0181 232 8686

هكذا من الأصل